

THE BARBARIANS WHO WIPED OUT THE ROMAN ARMY

# HISTORY

REVEALED

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ISSUE 53 // MARCH 2018 // £4.99

Conspiracy or lone gunman

## WHO KILLED JFK?

Will fresh evidence solve the crime of the century?

**PICASSO 1932**

The Spanish master's miracle year

**A KNIGHT'S TALE**

Pioneering explorer or medieval fantasist? The mystery of John Mandeville

**ELIZABETH'S RIVAL**

How the Tudor Queen was betrayed by her childhood friend

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Onlookers captured the moment President Kennedy was shot dead in Dallas

# The unusual suspects



Ever since that fateful day in Dallas, many people have insisted that **a conspiracy was behind the death of JFK**. On the flight back to Washington, the president's secretary, Evelyn Lincoln, drew up a list of potential suspects; it wasn't a short list. At the top, she wrote "Lyndon", referring to Vice-President Johnson, before adding **Nixon, communists and the CIA**, among others.

Fast forward 54 years, and the release of some 30,000 documents relating to the assassination came and went in a brief media storm. But what did the new documents tell us? **Are we any closer to knowing the truth behind the crime of the century?** We examine the facts from page 28.

Before I let you get stuck into the issue, I'd like to point you at our recently launched photo feature, **Postcards from the Past** (p90). Hopefully these delightful images will inspire you to see what pieces of history you can find when you're out and about. **Don't forget to send us your pictures** – we'll be publishing some of our favourites in coming issues. And be sure to follow us on Instagram **@HistoryRevMag** for more great pictures from the past.

**Paul McGuinness**  
Editor

*Paul*

**Don't miss our April issue, on sale 22 March**

## THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

**4**

US presidents have been assassinated: Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley and Kennedy. [See page 74.](#)

**28**

Incendiary bombs landed on St Paul's Cathedral on 29 December 1940. Volunteers spent the night on the roof extinguishing the fires to save the iconic building. [See page 18.](#)

**15,000**

Roman soldiers killed when ambushed by tribal warriors in modern-day Germany in AD 9. [See page 44.](#)

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Your key to the big stories...



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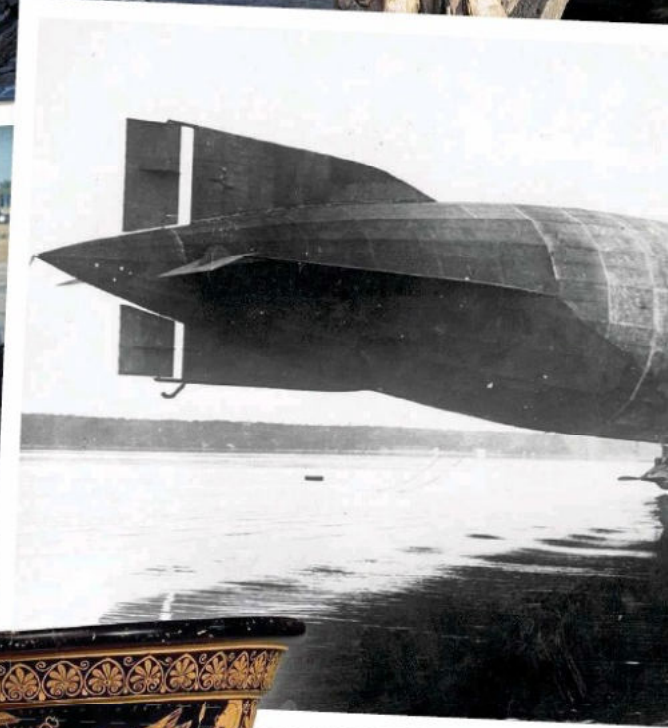


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# 28 WHO KILLED JFK?

We examine the fresh evidence about that fateful day in November 1963



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How Brunel's bridge in Bristol got built





# MARCH 2018

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# 1870 BONES OF CONTENTION

These men are unfazed by the macabre mountain that they're posing with – an enormous mound of bison skulls, waiting to be ground up and turned into fertiliser. As many as 60 million bison used to roam from Canada to Mexico, with giant herds ruling the Great Plains, but they were hunted to the point of extinction as American settlers moved west and killed them for their hides and meat, or simply for sport. Slaughtering bison by the thousands was also a way of attacking the Native Americans, who used every part of the sacred animal for food, clothing, shelter, tools and fuel. By 1900, only a few hundred bison remained.











# 1971 NOT A PIECE OF MEAT

Germaine Greer joins the thousands-strong wave of women parading through London for the first National Women's Liberation Movement demonstration on 6 March 1971. The roads from Oxford Circus to Trafalgar Square are filled with chants of "Free our sisters, free ourselves", as well as banners and posters, including this one condemning the objectification of women's bodies. A year earlier, Greer had published her seminal book *The Female Eunuch*, which had become an international bestseller and made the Australian a figurehead of the feminist movement.







# 1953 CLASS TRIP

Using the bumper-car-looking Aetna Drivotrainer, these high-school students from Brooklyn, New York, can practice their driving skills – safe in the knowledge that, no matter how badly they do, no pedestrians can come to harm. Each ‘car’ has a steering wheel, accelerator (which revs a realistic engine noise), brake, indicators and a horn. A film of a car on real streets is being projected to the front of the classroom, and the learner drivers have to react to a series of hazards and obstacles. All their actions are recorded, so there is no hope for those at the back to skive off.







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Image by Angela Ithyle

## THE END OF THE ROMANOVS

'Outstanding... essential reading'  
**Simon Sebag Montefiore, MAIL ON SUNDAY**

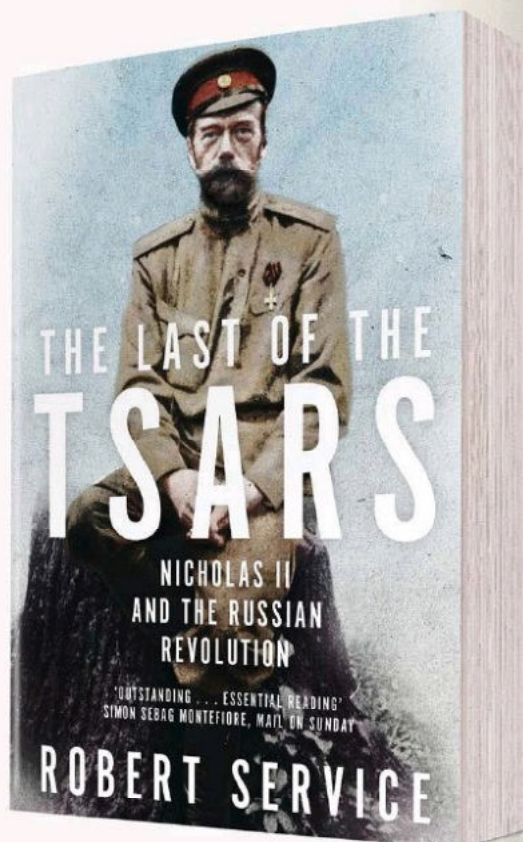
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## HISTORY IN THE NEWS



**CURSE OF CORTÉS**  
Posthumous dental work has shed light on the deadly outbreak, one of many to plague the Aztecs after the arrival of Hernán Cortés (below)

### NEW CLUES TO CAUSE OF AZTEC EPIDEMIC

Scientists have sunk their teeth into new DNA analysis to explain how millions perished

From 1545-50, the Aztecs fell prey to one of history's deadliest epidemics. It began with blemishes or rashes on the skin, fevers, headaches and vomiting, before victims started bleeding from the mouth, nose and eyes. Death followed within days. The mysterious disease, named by the Aztecs as *cocoliztli* ('pestilence'), killed as many as 15 million people, or 80 per cent of the population.

It was only one of the outbreaks to obliterate the Aztec Empire since the arrival of Hernán Cortés in 1519, but the exact cause has never been determined. A new study, published in the scientific

journal *Nature Ecology and Evolution*, may reveal a significant clue, though.

Scientists found traces of the bacterium *Salmonella enterica*, which can cause fevers such as typhoid, in DNA extracted from the teeth of 29 skeletons buried in southern Mexico. It is the first direct evidence pointing to a specific cause.

The team – comprised of researchers from the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Harvard University and the Mexican National Institute of Anthropology and History – used an advanced screening technique, called MALT. This

allowed them to test for any known pathogen, rather than testing for each individually.

"This is a critical advancement in the methods available to us as researchers of ancient diseases," said Kirsten Bos, a member of the team. "We can now look for the molecular traces of many infectious agents in the archaeological record."

While more research is needed, and salmonella cannot conclusively be said to be the sole culprit, the findings are a compelling piece to the puzzle.



### SIX OF THE BEST...

The greatest finds from Tutankhamun's tomb....p14



### YOUR HISTORY

Classicist and Cambridge professor Mary Beard....p17



### YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

St Paul's Cathedral survives the Blitz .....p18



### THIS MONTH IN... 1815

Back from exile, Napoleon regains his army.....p20



### TIME CAPSULE: 1900

Significant events from one year in history .....p22





IN THE NEWS

## EXCAVATION BEGINS IN HUNT FOR TOMB OF TUTANKHAMUN'S WIFE

Locating Ankhesenamun's final resting place could provide answers to her life

**T**utankhamun unquestionably remains the most famous pharaoh of Ancient Egypt – and it all began with the discovery of his tomb, in 1922. His short reign, in the 14th century BC, was not that spectacular. Nor did he get buried in a massive tomb or pyramid. Yet the stories of English archaeologist Howard Carter's expedition, and the treasures he brought to the surface, gave the boy king a world-famous reputation.

Egyptian archaeologist Zahi Hawass does not hope to achieve a success as remarkable as that, but he believes he may know the location of the tomb that could belong to Tutankhamun's wife, Ankhesenamun.

Hawass, Egypt's former Minister of State for Antiquities Affairs, has launched an excavation in the Valley of the Kings, burial site of pharaohs. He is concentrating on an area to the west, known as the Valley of the Monkeys, near the tomb of Ay, who succeeded Tutankhamun and possibly married Ankhesenamun.



**MISSING BRIDE**  
Tut and his wife  
Ankhesenamun, whose  
tomb lies undiscovered

Finding the tomb could provide details about Ankhesenamun's life, much of which still remains a mystery. She wed Tutankhamun, her half-brother, when they were both still children, yet is possible she had already been married before – to her father, no less.

Information gets even sparser following Tutankhamun's death. Ankhesenamun may have written to the king of the Hittites, asking that he send a son for her to marry. As the story goes, the king did send one of the princes, but he died, or was murdered, before he reached

Egypt. Ankhesenamun does not feature in known records again, apart from the suggestion that she married Ay (who may have been her grandfather).

In previous excavations near Ay's tomb, archaeologists found four deposits of artefacts, including pottery, food traces and tools, and the new expedition hopes to explore further using radar technology. "The radar scans in the area detected the presence of a possible entrance to a tomb at a depth of five metres," announced Hawass on his website. The answer to whether it belongs to Ankhesenamun will have to wait.

## SIX OF THE BEST... TREASURES OF TUT'S TOMB

Our pick of the truly special artefacts found by Carter and co...



### 1 TUTANKHAMUN'S DEATH MASK

Much more than the item of one pharaoh, the golden mask has become a symbol of all Ancient Egypt. Made of two layers of solid gold, and inlaid with precious stones, it weighs 10.23kg.



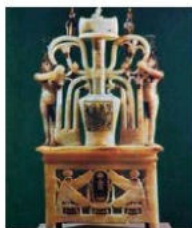
### 2 CANOPIC JARS

Used to store the stomach, intestines, lungs and liver, they are usually topped by the four sons of Horus. All of Tut's, in a chest inside a large canopic shrine, feature his own face.



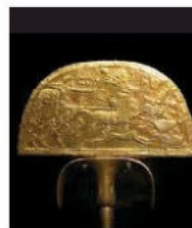
### 3 CHARIOTS

Six chariots (two gilded with gold) were found. They had been dismantled so they could fit through the narrow corridor, with their axles sawn through, but this helped to preserve them.



### 4 ALABASTER PERFUME VASE

Elaborately carved from four pieces of alabaster (as well as gold and ivory) this vase contained a solid piece of perfumed ointment, which was still fragrant at the time it was excavated.



### 5 EIGHT FANS

A much-needed item in the heat of Egypt, Tutankhamun had eight. One ivory hand fan still had its feathers intact – "as perfect as when it left the hands of the boy king", commented Howard Carter.



### 6 WOODEN CHEST

It is not what is inside this wooden chest that makes it so special, but the outside. The panels have exquisitely painted scenes of Tutankhamun hunting and racing into battle.



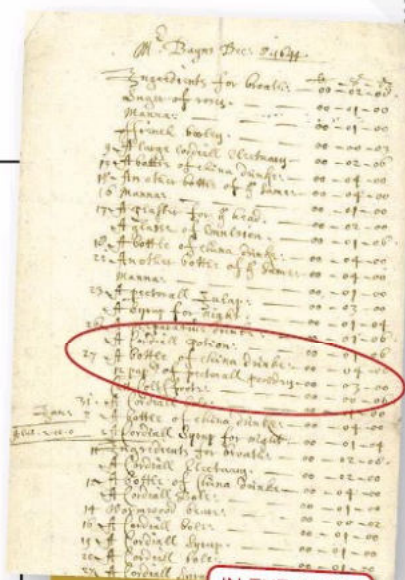
# TIME PIECE

## A look at everyday objects from the past

## WALKING TALL

## How the well-to-do women of Venice stood above the crowd

**W**hen it comes to 'chopines', size really did matter. Between the 15th and 17th centuries, women in Venice – and also Spain – vied to outdo one another with the height of their platform shoes. And seeing that some chopines towered as high as 50cm, in flagrant violation of a 1430 Venetian law restricting them to three inches, this blue-silk status symbol appears quite tame. Before they got enough practise walking in the frame-raising footwear, some noblewomen required servants to support them on each side whenever they went out.



## 1644 REFERENCE TO TEA IN ENGLAND DISCOVERED

The bill for 'China drinks' contains one of the oldest mentions of Britain's most-loved brew

**I**t may be hard to imagine for a nation that drinks 165 million cups a day, but there was a time when the British regarded tea as exotic, with it being sold at steep prices for its medicinal properties. Although it came to Europe in the 16th century, tea did not cause a stir until the mid-17th century, according to a recent discovery.

As Rachel Conroy, curator at Temple Newsam House near Leeds, conducted research for an exhibition on another favourite beverage – beer – she found a bill, dated 8 December 1644, with what is thought to be one of the earliest mentions of tea drinking in Britain. It refers to bottles of ‘China drink’, the old name for tea, each priced at four shillings.

"Back in the 1640s, tea had only just begun to make its way to England, and would probably have been something of a novelty and quite a status symbol," says Conroy.



# HISTORY IN COLOUR

Colourised photographs that bring the past to life

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## VICTORIA'S ROYAL FAMILY SNAP

The monarch known as the 'grandmother of Europe' shows her softer side

Queen Victoria sits with two of her grandchildren, Margaret and Arthur, in 1886, by which time she had over 30 from the nine children she had with Prince Albert. He died in 1861; when this photo was taken, Victoria had been in mourning for him longer than they had been married.





# YOUR HISTORY

## Mary Beard

The classicist and Cambridge professor reveals her disdain for the mythos of Alexander the Great, and why she hunts for stories of forgotten Romans



Mary's latest project is *Civilisations*, a ten-part BBC Two series examining art and visual culture from around the world, co-presented by fellow historians Simon Schama and David Olusoga. It airs in spring 2018.

**Q If you could turn back the clock, which single event in history would you want to change?**

I rather fancy turning Alexander the Great into a hopeless military disaster. It is partly the glamorisation of Alexander's success, and the (probably false) sense that he was on some heroic mission to take culture to the East, that has so firmly embedded that clash of cultures. West versus East. In reality, I suspect that he was a brutal young man with a drinking habit. I would rather like to take him down a peg or two.

**Q If you could meet any figure from history, who would it be?**

I would always want to swap notes with a woman. One favourite would be Agrippina, Emperor Nero's mother. She has had a very bad press, accused of wheedling her son onto the throne and of having an incestuous affair with him; he soon tired of her, the story goes, and had her murdered.

It is part of a pattern with the high-ranking ladies of imperial Rome – they are always treated as treacherous (and as a dab hand with poison). It is a dreadful stereotype, I suspect, but I need to come face to face to be quite sure.

**Q If you could visit any historical landmark in the world tomorrow, where would you go?**

Back to Pompeii. That's not very original, but it is one place where you can really feel you are in the Roman world. It is not so much any single building in particular – though there are some wonderfully preserved bathing complexes, where you really get a feel for what it must have been like. It is more the fact that if you are lucky you can still wander down backstreets and see nothing from the 21st century. You can still hop across the streets on the famous stepping stones, as if you were there in AD 79.

**Q Who is your unsung history hero?**

Mine are all the unsung cleaners, bath attendants, nannies and laundry workers of the Roman world. We know much less about them than we do about the so-called 'great men', but we can discover more than you think. Perhaps my favourite is a woman from Rome itself called Allia Potestas, who is described at length on her tombstone. From that we learn that she lived in a ménage à trois with two young men, and that she was always the first one up and the last to go to bed. Predictably, when Allia died the guys went their separate ways.

**"I would rather like to take Alexander the Great down a peg or two"**

Pompeii was a Roman town close to Naples, buried by ash from Vesuvius in AD 79









# YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

Another timeless front page from the archives

## ST PAUL'S SURVIVES THE BLITZ

A night of havoc broke bricks and mortar, but not the British spirit

**T**he Blitz halted briefly over Christmas 1940, but on the evening of Sunday 29 December the Luftwaffe resumed bombing an already hammered London. The whistling sounds of incendiaries were first heard at 6.15pm, and for the next three-and-a-half hours more than 100,000 such bombs fell. The attack was so ferocious that one American reporter telegraphed his office with the words: "The second Great Fire of London has begun."

While most people huddled in shelters or Tube stations, an act that had become all too familiar, firefighters and volunteers tirelessly tackled the 1,500 or so blazes across the city. Dozens of buildings were utterly destroyed – but not one crucial landmark.

St Paul's Cathedral was surrounded by smouldering ruins, while flames licked the edges of the churchyard. But Prime Minister Winston Churchill, recognising its importance to British morale, sent a message saying St Paul's must be saved at all costs.

The cathedral's volunteer firewatchers, the St Paul's Watch, spent the evening putting out the fires from the 28 incendiary bombs that rained down on

the building, using stirrup pumps, buckets and sand. One crashed through the dome and lodged in the support beams – causing molten lead to drip down – before it finally fell to the stone floor. Yet, incredibly, the cathedral sustained no irreparable damage.

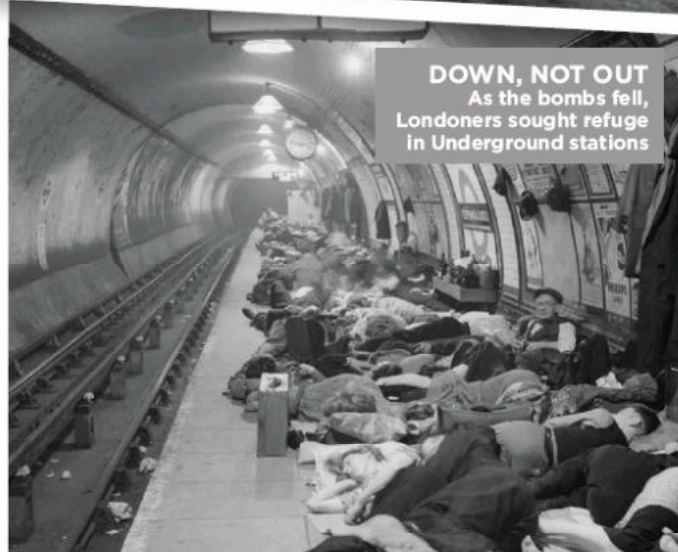
By dawn, the fires had been brought under control by the exhausted firefighters, the 'heroes with grimy faces'. The night left more than 160 dead and around 500 injured.

A couple of days later, once the photo had been cleared by the censors, the *Daily Mail's* front page featured what it dubbed "war's greatest picture". St Paul's was still standing and almost emerging, defiant, from the black smoke. It was taken by Herbert Mason from the roof of the newspaper's office, around half a mile from the cathedral. "The shining cross, dome and towers stood out like a symbol in the inferno," he later said.

Indeed the photo, known as 'St Paul's Survives', came to represent British resolve – the ultimate icon of 'Blitz spirit'. ☉



**HELL AND HIGH WATER**  
Low tide on the Thames and a ruptured water main made the firefighting even more difficult



**DOWN, NOT OUT**  
As the bombs fell, Londoners sought refuge in Underground stations



# THIS MONTH IN... 1815

Anniversaries that have made history

## NAPOLEON REGAINS HIS ARMY

He hoped to reclaim his position as Emperor of France (and most powerful man in Europe), but his short second rule was destined to become known as 'The Hundred Days'

**N**apoleon Bonaparte forged an empire through his mastery of military strategy, but then came his catastrophic Russian invasion in 1812. The failed offensive crippled his army, revealed his weaknesses and gave heart to his enemies – leading to another heavy defeat at Leipzig in October 1813. To the coalition of European powers that formed against him, Napoleon had become “the sole obstacle to the re-establishment of peace in Europe”, and the French people, tired of war and reeling from their losses, turned on their emperor. On 6 April 1814, he was forced to abdicate.

Napoleon was exiled to the tiny Mediterranean island of Elba, taking with him 600 of his loyal Imperial Guard. There, he set about building his own little domain, but his promised pension never came, and he longed to see his wife and baby son. Ever ambitious, he kept abreast of the political climate in Europe – and plotted his return.

After just 300 days, Napoleon sailed from Elba with a force of fewer than 1,000 men, landing back on French soil at the Côte d'Azur on 1 March 1815. By the time he had reached Paris, thousands had flocked to his banners and the restored King Louis XVIII had already fled. In power once again, Napoleon set about preparing for war against a new coalition – Britain, Prussia, Austria and Russia – and mustered an army of 120,000 men. His aim was to strike before his enemies could unite, and it started well with victory at Ligny on 16 June.

But two days later, Napoleon's dreams of dominion came to an end with a crushing defeat at the Battle of Waterloo. He spent the rest of his days exiled on another island, this one in the South Atlantic – Saint Helena. ☉





**"KILL YOUR EMPEROR"**  
MAIN: Napoleon is apprehended by the French 5th Regiment near Grenoble on 7 March 1815. Rather than take him to Paris in chains, the soldiers threw down their arms and joined him  
RIGHT: Defeat at Leipzig in 1813 left 38,000 French dead and wounded, and forced Napoleon on the defensive





# TIME CAPSULE 1900

Snapshots of the world from one year in the past

## THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ IS PUBLISHED

When the first edition of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum was released in 1900, all 10,000 copies sold out in a matter of weeks. Each new print run disappeared just as quickly, and the children's novel, with luxurious illustrations by WW Denslow, remained a bestseller for two years. Its success inspired 13 sequels, a Broadway musical and, most enduringly, the 1939 film starring Judy Garland. Although, in the book, the slippers given to Dorothy are silver – not ruby red!



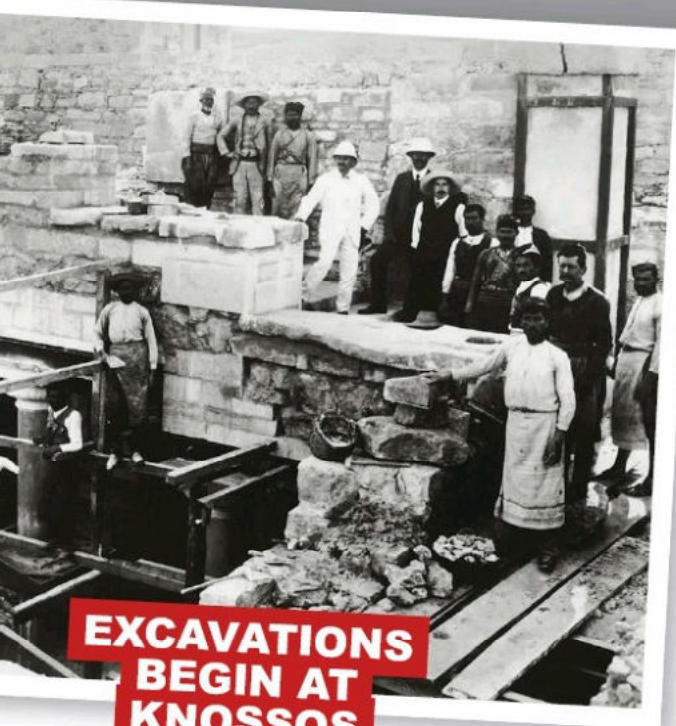
The WONDERFUL WIZARD OF  
By L. Frank Baum  
With Pictures by  
W. W. Denslow.



**WE'RE OFF TO SEE THE WIZARD!**  
Now beloved by millions, on release the 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz* was not considered a commercial success

L. Frank Baum fell out with his illustrator and friend WW Denslow over royalty payments. They never worked together again





## EXCAVATIONS BEGIN AT KNOSSOS

On 23 March, digging commenced at Knossos, on the island of Crete, under the direction of Sir Arthur Evans. The English archaeologist (and Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford) did not actually discover the site – Minos Kalokairinos found it in 1878 – but Evans uncovered the palace complex, which was the fabled location of the Minotaur's labyrinth from Ancient Greek myth. The find also provided vital evidence for a previously unexplored Bronze Age civilisation, named the Minoans by Evans. He continued excavating at Knossos for more than three decades.

## THE ZEPPELIN TAKES OFF



When Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin retired from the German Army in 1890, he devoted his time (and money) to building the world's first lighter-than-air rigid airship. It took him ten years to develop his self-titled dirigible, Luftschiff Zeppelin 1, which he then built in a floating hangar on Lake Constance, in southern Germany. On the evening of 2 July, the 128-metre-long LZ 1 took off. Yet the 17-minute flight revealed serious flaws – the LZ 1 was too heavy, the metal framework wasn't stable enough and the two engines lacked power. Zeppelin had to go back to the drawing board, but he had taken the first step to launching the airship era.

## BOERS VICTORIOUS AT SPION KOP

British soldiers climbed the steep hill of Spion Kop in South Africa on the night of 23 January, hoping to break the Boer's defensive line. But they didn't dig their trenches deep enough, and the next morning found themselves exposed to Boer sharpshooters and artillery. The battle is remembered both as a crushing defeat for the British and for the presence of three future world leaders – Boer general Louis Botha (future Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa), Winston Churchill and Gandhi.



## ALSO IN 1900...

### 14 JANUARY

Italian composer Giacomo Puccini's opera *Tosca* premieres at a theatre in Rome. It didn't impress the critics all that much.

### 27 FEBRUARY

The Labour Representation Committee is founded in Britain by the trade union movement and socialist parties. We know it today as the Labour Party.

### 30 APRIL

The US enacts the Hawaiian Organic Act, establishing a territorial government on the Pacific islands. Hawaii had been annexed by the US two years earlier.

### 25 JUNE

Taoist monk Wang Yuanlu discovers the Dunhuang manuscripts – around 50,000 precious scrolls – in a sacred cave in China.

### 30 JULY

The Central London Railway, an underground line serving 13 stations, opens to the public.

### 8 SEPTEMBER

At least 6,000 people perish when a massive hurricane makes landfall in Galveston, Texas – the deadliest natural disaster in US history.

## DIED: 30 NOVEMBER OSCAR WILDE

The Irish author, playwright and famed wit died in Paris, poor and disgraced. At the height of his fame, Wilde attempted to sue the Marquess of Queensbury (his male lover's father) for criminal libel, only to be arrested himself and tried for gross indecency. He was sentenced to two years' hard labour.



## BORN: 25 JUNE LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN

Second cousin once removed to Queen Elizabeth II, Louis Mountbatten was born at Frogmore House, on the royal estate in Windsor. He served in both world wars and was the last viceroy of India, overseeing the Partition. He was assassinated on 27 August 1979 by an IRA bomb, planted on his boat.





# GRAPHIC HISTORY

## THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE

The name strikes fear into the hearts of superstitious sailors and pilots alike. The Bermuda Triangle, a stretch of the Atlantic Ocean roughly marked out by the Florida city of Miami, Puerto Rico and the islands of Bermuda, is infamous thanks to a century of strange disappearances. Dozens, perhaps

hundreds, of ships and planes have vanished, having sent no distress call, and often leaving zero wreckage. While reports of compass malfunctions may suggest magnetic anomalies, theories go as far as paranormal or extraterrestrial involvement. This is the enduring mystery that haunts the Triangle.

## THAT SINKING FEELING...

The Triangle's reputation grew in the 20th century, thanks to a string of strange disappearances

# 1964

The year when writer Vincent Gaddis coined 'Bermuda Triangle'

### MARCH 1918

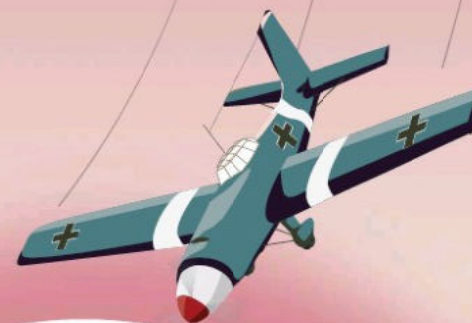
USS *Cyclops*, a naval cargo ship with 306 people and 10,000 tons of manganese on board, vanishes during World War I. President Woodrow Wilson says: "Only God and the sea know what happened to the great ship."

### 31 JANUARY 1921

Commercial schooner *Carroll A Deering* is found abandoned and run aground off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. There are sightings of the ship (complete with crew) hundreds of miles beyond the Bermuda Triangle, though, leading some to blame piracy or mutiny.

### NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1941

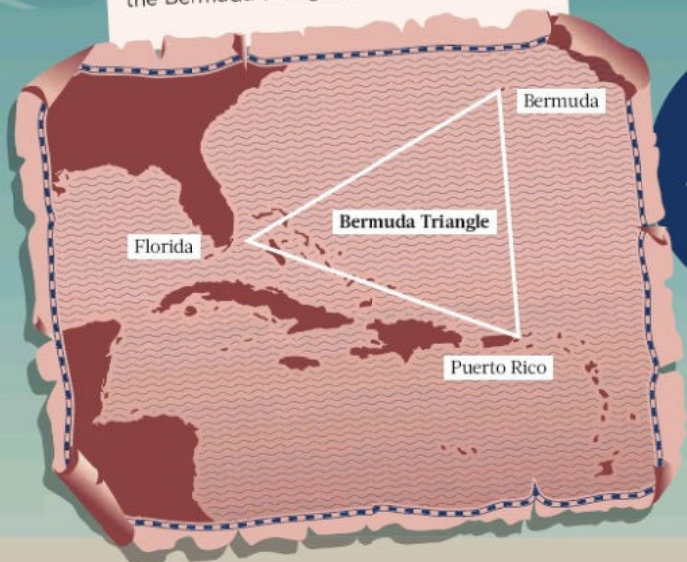
USS *Proteus* and USS *Nereus* - both sister ships of the *Cyclops* - are lost at sea within a few weeks. There are no German U-boat claims for either vessel.





## IS IT A REAL DANGER?

Despite the wide range of theories (see below), many reports, including those by the United States Coast Guard and a leading marine insurance company, downplay the danger of the Bermuda Triangle. They claim that the number of disappearances has been exaggerated, accounts are often unreliable, and the number of craft reported missing is no greater than in any other area. In 2013, the World Wide Fund for Nature identified the 10 most dangerous waters for shipping: the Bermuda Triangle was not one of them.



**500k**

The approximate size of the Triangle in square miles

## 30 JANUARY 1948

A passenger aircraft owned by British South American Airways - *Star Tiger* - disappears, taking 31 people with it. There had been strong gales that night and the pilot had decided to fly at a very low altitude of 2,000 feet.

## 17 JANUARY 1949

An hour after taking off from Bermuda, *Star Ariel*, sister plane of *Star Tiger*, evaporates into thin air on the way to Jamaica, despite good visibility.

## 5 DECEMBER 1945

Contact is lost with Flight 19, a group of five Grumman TBM Avenger torpedo bombers carrying out navigation training. Neither the 14 airmen, nor the 13 members of a flying boat sent to look for them, are ever seen again.

## 28 DECEMBER 1948

The 29 passengers and three crew of a Douglas DST airliner are lost during a flight from Puerto Rico to Florida. It is known that the batteries were low and radio signals concerning wind changes may not have been received.

## 30 OCTOBER 1954

Flight 441, carrying 42 US naval personnel and their families, disappears. The ensuing investigation concluded: "The force that rendered the aircraft uncontrollable is unknown."

**1,000**

The estimated number of people lost

## WHAT'S TO BLAME?

### MAGNETIC ANOMALIES

Reports say that compasses go haywire in the Triangle, which may point towards a bland solution: natural magnetic variations



### BAD WEATHER

The Atlantic hurricane season averages 14 tropical storms and eight hurricanes per year



### PIRATES

Modern Blackbeards could raid and destroy ships, knowing the mysteries of the Triangle would be blamed



### ALIEN ABDUCTIONS

This may belong in film. Indeed, Flight 19 appeared in Steven Spielberg's *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*



### ATLANTIS

Natural rock formations in the water have been claimed to be parts of the mythic city, suggesting technology from Atlantis may be sinking ships



### GULF STREAM

The quick current, flowing through the Straits of Florida, could carry boats miles away from their reported positions



### METHANE HYDRATES

When this natural gas bubbles up from the continental shelves, it could sink a ship by decreasing the density of the water



### HUMAN ERROR

Mistakes happen, not just in the Bermuda Triangle, but all over the world





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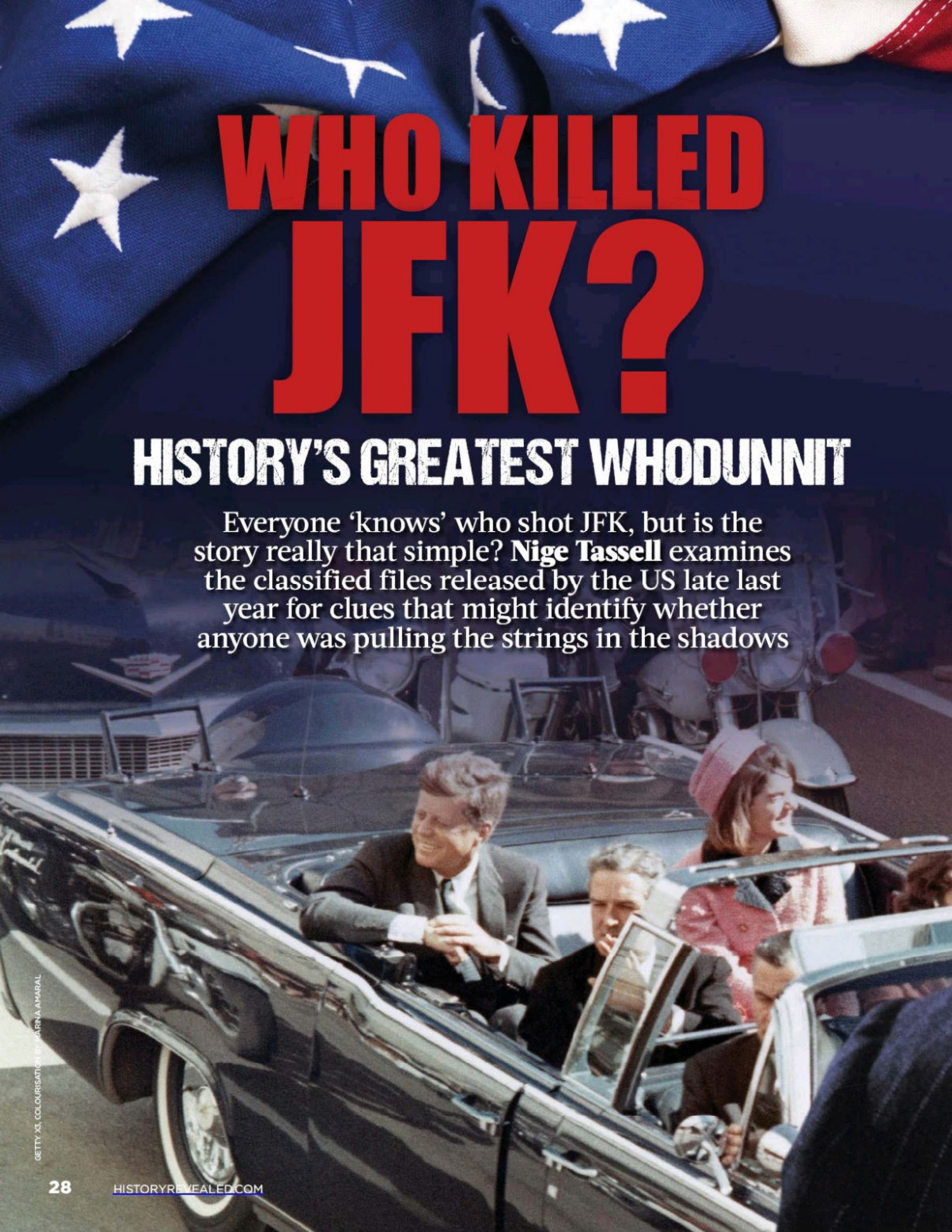


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# WHO KILLED JFK?

## HISTORY'S GREATEST WHODUNNIT

Everyone 'knows' who shot JFK, but is the story really that simple? **Nige Tassell** examines the classified files released by the US late last year for clues that might identify whether anyone was pulling the strings in the shadows





Kennedy was not well-loved in Dallas, yet felt compelled to visit the city as part of a wider Texan tour to shore up Democratic support



20R4 LEGS, SWIMS,  
WALKS, FLIES, OR CRAWLS  
**ANYTHING**  
BUT  
J.F.K.

Placard-waving  
protesters mingle with  
well wishers waiting  
for JFK's motorcade



COME TO FT  
HERE THE WEST

All smiles earlier  
in the day, Kennedy  
leaves a theatre  
in Fort Worth



**I**t is history's ultimate murder mystery, one that – nearly 55 years on – has never been satisfactorily solved. At 11.38am local time, on 22 November 1963, Air Force One landed at Love Field in Dallas. On board was US President John F Kennedy, visiting the Texan city in an attempt to boost his popularity in the state ahead of the presidential election the following year. Less than an hour later, a bullet had shattered both skull and brain. But the identity of who actually fired the fatal shot – and their motivation for doing so – has been the subject of deep conjecture and study ever since.

During 2017, more than 30,000 government documents concerning the assassination were released into the public realm, either in full or redacted form. While they added more detail to the debate and filled in a few blanks, they didn't join the dots to present an indisputable explanation. The case is still not closed, the fog surrounding the tragedy still thick. But while the perpetrator and their cause continue to be speculated upon, the raw events of that fateful November day are burned onto the collective retinas of a nation.

The president was in Texas for political reasons. In-fighting within the state Democrat Party found Kennedy and Vice-President Lyndon B Johnson adopting a united front to stymie this bleeding wound, caused by a conflict between two key Texan Democrats – Governor John Connally and Senator Ralph Yarborough. The Democrats' hold on Texas was flimsy and fragile. Kennedy, despite having the Texan Johnson as his running mate, had taken the state by fewer than 50,000 votes in the 1960 presidential election. "If the governor and the senator didn't agree to a truce soon," observed William Manchester, author of the seminal *The Death Of A President*, "the national



Anti-Kennedy leaflets  
were distributed  
around Dallas ahead of  
the president's visit

ticket wouldn't stand a chance there next fall. No party writes off 25 electoral votes, so both Kennedy and Johnson were going down to patch things up. They had to make a major production of the trip." In the end, it became a major production of an assassination.

### IN THE LION'S MAW

Kennedy knew the risk. Dallas had a reputation for political violence, and the previous month, Arkansas senator J William Fulbright had directly advised Kennedy to remove it from his five-city Texas visit. "Dallas is a very dangerous place," he warned. "I wouldn't go there. Don't you go."

Fulbright wasn't the only one to feel this way. When the Secret Service had driven the motorcade route four days earlier, local operative Forrest V Sorrels realised the high-rise architecture of downtown Dallas rendered those in the motorcade "sitting ducks". Some 20,000 windows overlooked the route, 20,000 potential sniper perches that even the

**"KENNEDY'S  
POPULARITY IN  
THE CITY WAS  
EXCEEDINGLY LOW"**

best efforts of the intelligence community couldn't completely defend against.

Kennedy's popularity in the city was exceedingly low. The local paper, the *Dallas Morning News*, was particularly vicious when it came to stirring political discontent and extremism. Its proprietor, Ted Dealey, had already addressed Kennedy at the White House a couple of years before in words of the barest candour. Dealey told the president what was required at that time was "a man on horseback to lead this nation, and many people in Texas and the Southwest think you are riding Caroline's tricycle". The implication was far from disguised. Texas saw JFK as a soft-touch East Coaster, the family man, the liberal, keen to thaw the ice of the Cold War.

Even if, when waking up in a Fort Worth hotel room on the last morning of his life, Kennedy didn't believe he was entering a cauldron of distrust and hate,





**Kennedy in the motorcade next to his wife Jackie; seated in front are Governor John Connally, who would be severely wounded, and his wife Nellie**

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Lincoln Continental remained the car of choice for Presidents Johnson and Nixon - after it had been beefed up with bulletproof glass

page 14 of that day's *Dallas Morning News* told him otherwise. It was a full-page advertisement, its headline ironically welcoming the president to Dallas before asking a dozen questions of him, including one that suggested he was in collusion with the Vietnamese Communist Party. "We DEMAND answers to these questions," it read.

After the 13-minute flight from Fort Worth to Dallas, Kennedy and his wife Jackie assumed their seats in the Lincoln Continental convertible that would take them on a circuitous route through the city before a lunch engagement at the Dallas Trade Mart. Sat in front of them were Governor Connally and his wife Nellie. The rain of that morning had disappeared and the sky was now a perfect blue. Had the inclement conditions continued, the Lincoln's roof would have been in position, quite possibly averting the tragedy to come.

As the motorcade made its way into the city, the response of the citizens of Dallas seemed warmer than expected to an under-fire president. Not that Kennedy, the decorated war veteran, was allowing himself to get rattled by any danger. At the junction of Lemmon Avenue and Lomo

Alto Drive, he ordered the car be stopped, then got out and casually greeted some schoolchildren. By the time the motorcade reached Main Street, the downtown crowds started to seriously thicken.

Main Street took the procession on an arrow-straight course through the heart of the downtown area, before the cars at the front of the 17-vehicle procession turned right onto Houston Street and then negotiated a sharp, 120° corner onto Elm Street. At this point, as it made the tight turn in front of the Texas School Book Depository, the motorcade reduced its speed to little more than walking pace.

Conspiracy theorists later pounced on this slight detour as being deliberately manufactured so as to bring the motorcade within shooting distance, but it was actually out of necessity. Had they continued on Main Street, a traffic island would have blocked their passage up onto the highway and towards the Trade Mart for that lunch reception.

Now out of the canyon of skyscrapers and into the sunshine, the motorcade was greeted by much sparser crowds, onlookers dotting the open, grassy areas of Dealey Plaza. Then, on the stroke of 12.30pm, came the first bang, thought by most bystanders to be one of the motorcade's vehicles backfiring. But it was a rifle shot. It missed,

ricocheting away from the president after hitting a tree. The second bullet found its mark, passing through Kennedy's neck and windpipe, then exiting his throat, after which it wounded Governor Connally. It caused Kennedy to lurch forward, his hand on his throat. Then came the third bullet, a devastating shot that caused immense head trauma.

### PANIC STATIONS

The reaction was instant. The crowd hit the ground as if levelled by a sudden wind, while Secret Service agents rallied to the president's car. One - Clint Hill - leapt onto the Lincoln's boot as it accelerated away. Jackie Kennedy climbed out of her seat and towards the back of the car, either to assist Hill or to retrieve a portion of her husband's skull. Two cars back, Vice-President Johnson's own security detail instantly covered the second-in-command. Meanwhile, the president's Lincoln was speeding off towards the highway. Six minutes later, it arrived at Parkland Memorial Hospital. Had he been a mere civilian, Kennedy would have been declared dead on arrival. It would be another 24 minutes until a Parkland physician called his death.

The manhunt was on and it wasn't long before an employee of the Texas



# ASSASSINATION

A closer look at how the final moments of President John F Kennedy's life unfolded

President John F Kennedy landed at Love Field Airport at 11.38pm; less than one and a half hours later he was pronounced dead in hospital. The minutes in-between have been examined again and again by those trying to discover the definite truth of who shot the president. These are his final moments, as his motorcade makes the awkward turn onto Elm Street and the fatal bullets are fired.

## THE THREE SHOTS THAT SLEW KENNEDY

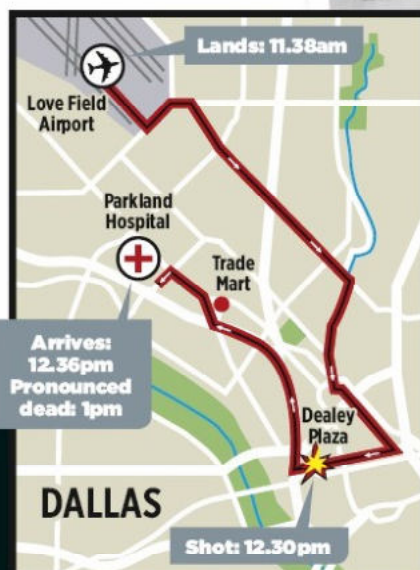
How Lee Harvey Oswald scotched the president in a few seconds of shooting

- 1 The first bullet misses completely; it strikes a tree and ricochets away, then hits a curb near the railway bridge. It throws up a concrete fragment that superficially wounds a bystander.
- 2 The second bullet slams into Kennedy's back, exits through his neck, and lodges in Governor John Connally, sitting in front of him. Kennedy is seen putting his hand to his neck in the Zapruder footage.
- 3 The third bullet is definitively fatal, hitting the president in the head and cleaving away part of his skull. One onlooker, just six years old, thinks that confetti is being thrown from the motorcade.

## THE SINGLE/MAGIC BULLET THEORY

The single bullet theory is that the first of the two bullets that hit Kennedy passed through him, and caused all of Connally's injuries – a total of seven entry and exit wounds. Critics derisively call it the 'magic' bullet theory

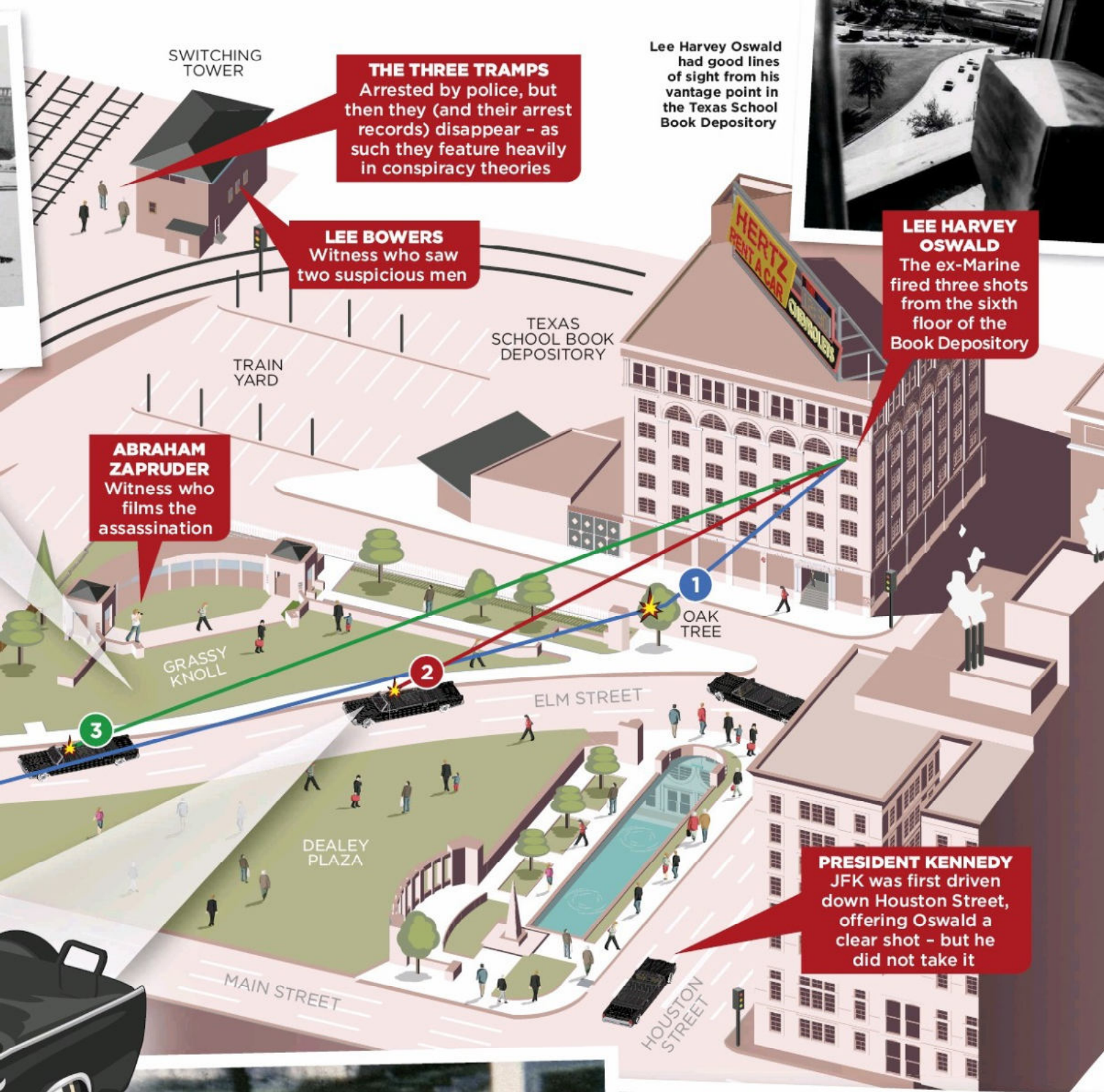
- 1 Oswald's second shot enters Kennedy's back, but doesn't stop – it emerges from his throat just below his Adam's Apple.
- 2 The same bullet hits Connally, entering his abdomen under his right arm; it destroys most of his fifth rib and a punctures a lung.
- 3 Connally suffers further injury, as the same bullet shatters his wrist and then lodges itself in his thigh.



Some witnesses threw themselves to the ground after hearing the shots; others reached for their cameras





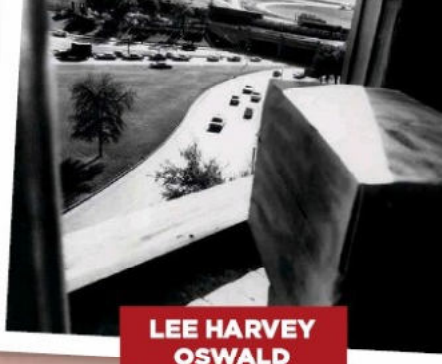


SWITCHING TOWER

**THE THREE TRAMPS**  
Arrested by police, but then they (and their arrest records) disappear - as such they feature heavily in conspiracy theories

**LEE BOWERS**  
Witness who saw two suspicious men

Lee Harvey Oswald had good lines of sight from his vantage point in the Texas School Book Depository



**LEE HARVEY OSWALD**  
The ex-Marine fired three shots from the sixth floor of the Book Depository

**ABRAHAM ZAPRUDER**  
Witness who films the assassination

1  
OAK TREE

2

3

**PRESIDENT KENNEDY**  
JFK was first driven down Houston Street, offering Oswald a clear shot - but he did not take it

Jackie Kennedy leans over to help her husband in the moments after the shooting

Secret Service agent Clint Hill scrambles to protect JFK and the First Lady from further injury





< School Book Depository was the chief suspect. The building's sixth floor had been undergoing refurbishment, meaning its piles of boxes had been shifted to one end, offering the perfect hiding place for a rifle-toting, would-be assassin. His name was Lee Harvey Oswald.

The search for Oswald didn't last long. Forty-five minutes after the assassination, a Dallas police officer was shot dead three miles south of Dealey Plaza. His supposed killer, a man fitting Oswald's description, had then disappeared into a local cinema, where he was quickly apprehended. With the country and the world plunged into deep shock, the speedy arrest of the supposed assassin brought some kind of lukewarm comfort.

Back at Parkland, a struggle ensued concerning the president's body. The Secret Service wanted it swiftly returned to Washington, while the local authorities were insisting the post-mortem be carried out in Dallas.

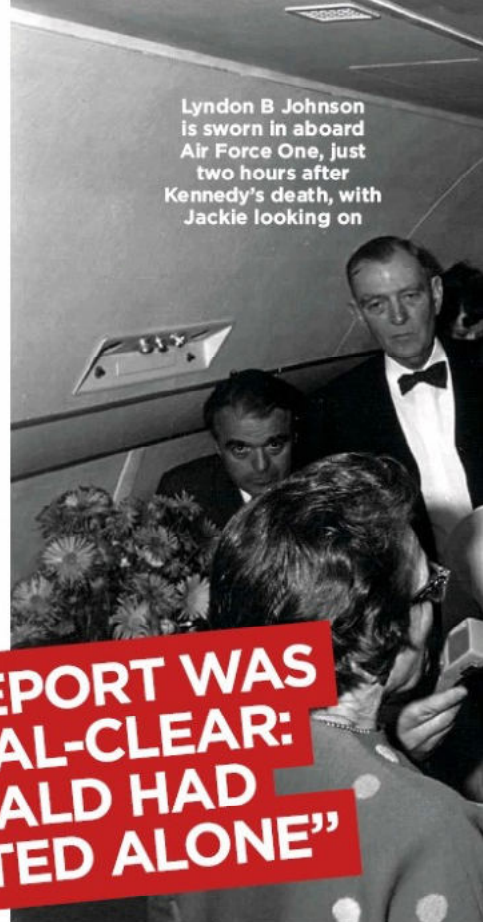
Washington won that particular battle and Kennedy's body was transported back to Love Field, where it was loaded onto Air Force One. Also on board were Jackie Kennedy, her pink suit heavily stained by the blood of her husband, and Vice-President Johnson who, before take-off, was sworn in as the 36th president of the United States.

### TOO CONVENIENT?

In Oswald, the authorities firmly believed they had their man, a loose cannon with Marxist sympathies and a sharpshooting record from his time in the military. It was a convenient outcome – the lone gunman with erratic tendencies. "He hadn't the ideals of a cat," one commentator later noted.

However, it proved to be a false denouement. Another would occur two days after the assassination when, while being transferred to the county jail, Oswald was fatally shot by a local nightclub owner called

Lyndon B Johnson is sworn in aboard Air Force One, just two hours after Kennedy's death, with Jackie looking on



**"THE REPORT WAS CRYSTAL-CLEAR: OSWALD HAD OPERATED ALONE"**

## LEE HARVEY OSWALD'S DAY

Lee Harvey Oswald had reported for work at the Texas School Book Depository as normal on the morning of 22 November 1963. The rest of the day was anything but normal. At 12.30pm, as the presidential motorcade passed the building, three shots were fired from its sixth floor. Ninety seconds later, Oswald was challenged by a police officer who was following reports of a gunman being spotted at one of the windows, but Oswald's superior reassured the officer that he was an employee. Oswald then left the building just before police sealed it off.

Oswald then took a taxi to his lodgings in the Oak Cliff district where, according to his landlady, he changed into a jacket and swiftly left. A quarter of an hour later, and almost a mile away, a Dallas policeman named JD Tippit pulled up alongside Oswald, who matched the description of the armed man seen at the Book Depository window.

As Tippit stepped out of his car, Oswald – as later verified by nine eyewitnesses – fired four shots into the officer.

A local shoe-shop manager then watched as Oswald disappeared into a nearby cinema, the Texas Theatre, and alerted a member of staff, who in turn summoned the police. After a brief struggle, Oswald was arrested inside the auditorium. At Dallas police headquarters, another officer recognised Oswald's name; he was the only Book Depository employee unaccounted for and who thus had become a suspect in Kennedy's assassination.

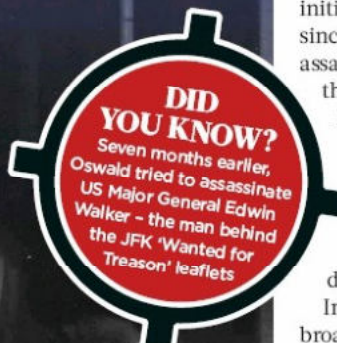
"I didn't shoot anybody, no sir," Oswald told reporters as he was led through the corridors of the police building. That evening, though, he was charged with killing Officer Tippit. In the early hours of the following day, he was charged with assassinating President Kennedy. The day after that, he himself was gunned down, live on television.

Jack Ruby in the underground car park of Dallas police headquarters. Having already declared to the media that he was the fall guy for something bigger – "I'm just a patsy," he claimed – Oswald would take the truth of the assassination to the grave.

A week after Kennedy's death, the newly installed Johnson ordered the establishment of the President's Commission of the Assassination of President Kennedy to investigate the full circumstances of the killing. Led by chief justice Earl Warren (and subsequently known as the Warren Commission), it produced its findings ten months later in an 888-page report. Its conclusion was crystal-clear: Oswald was the only gunman and had operated alone. Similarly, his murder by Ruby was another individual act.

For some, the Warren Report was deeply unsatisfactory, a mere rubberstamping of the authorities' initial analysis. Over the 55 years since, each and every second of the assassination has been studied in the deepest forensic detail; the writer Mark Lawson once quipped that it was "a torrent of commentary equalled only by biblical scholarship". Accordingly, a range of theories has subsequently been presented, debated, debunked and reaffirmed. In 1975, a major piece of evidence was broadcast on network television, one

Lee Harvey Oswald is manhandled out of the Texas Theatre after his arrest







**MAIN:** Governor John Connally examines the Zapruder footage, which clearly shows the fatal bullets hitting home  
**INSET:** Zapruder on the grassy knoll, moments after the third shot



## THE MOST FAMOUS HOME MOVIE

When he awoke on 22 November 1963, Abraham Zapruder could never have guessed the contribution he would make to US history that day. A garment-maker originally from Ukraine, Zapruder filmed 26 seconds of John F Kennedy's motorcade moving along Elm Street in Dallas. Contained in the 486 frames he recorded were the moments of impact of the two bullets that ended the president's life.

The rights to Zapruder's footage were bought by *Life* magazine for \$150,000, and stills were used as part of the Warren Commission's investigation. However, it was only when frame 313 was broadcast on US television in 1975, showing the devastating headshot (and suggesting a second assassin located elsewhere in the vicinity) that the lone gunman theory fell out of favour with the American public.

At the start of Zapruder's footage, office workers are seen lining the sidewalk as Dealey Plaza basks in the midday Dallas sun. The presidential motorcade appears and successfully negotiates the 120° left turn onto Elm Street, close to the end of the processional route. President Kennedy is all smiles in the back seat of his limousine.

Seconds later, Kennedy is seen clutching his throat. The bullet passes through his throat before continuing its passage into Governor John Connally, who is sat directly in front of the president. Feeling the bullet's impact in his back, Connally exclaimed: "My God, they're going to kill us all."

The most significant frame of all 26 seconds of footage is still to come. As the motorcade passes almost directly in front of Zapruder, a bullet destroys part of Kennedy's head. When he sold the rights to *Life* magazine, Zapruder insisted that this most graphic of images not be published.

Three seconds after Kennedy received that devastating headshot, his wife Jackie rises from her seat, quite possibly to help Secret Service agent Clint Hill into the vehicle. Other theories suggest the First Lady was trying to retrieve part of her husband's skull.



that remains the cornerstone of many conspiracy theories surrounding the assassination. On that day in November 1963, a local man named Abraham Zapruder used his cine-camera to film the motorcade as it made its progress through Dealey Plaza. His footage, and specifically frame 313, showed the headshot that had killed the president. The impact knocked Kennedy backwards, suggesting the shot had come from the front, not from behind – that is, there was a strong possibility that it wasn't fired from the Book Depository, which was already in the rear-view mirror of the presidential car.

Theories about the location of a possible second gunman abounded. On the day itself, many bystanders had rushed up the grassy knoll to where Zapruder had been standing, believing the shots to have come from that area. Another theory was that a sniper had

**Witnesses wait to give evidence to the Warren Commission; its eventual report would 'confirm' the lone gunman theory, to the chagrin of many**



## CONSPIRACY THEORIES

### THE CIA

A theory posited by New Orleans district attorney Jim Garrison (and subsequently picked up by Oliver Stone for his film *JFK*) saw Kennedy's killing as an inside job. Anti-communist elements within the agency thought the president was toning down the Cold War rhetoric, favouring toleration over polarisation.

### THE MAFIA

Not only was the failure to remove Fidel Castro from power in the Bay of Pigs invasion affecting mafia interests in Cuba, but the close attentions being paid to organised crime back home by the attorney general (who just happened to be JFK's brother, Robert) caused alarm in the underworld. "We shouldn't have killed John," mobster Santo Trafficante Jr reportedly later said. "We should have killed Bobby."

### LYNDON B JOHNSON

It's not such a preposterous idea that Kennedy's vice-president, whom JFK was apparently intending to replace, was the architect of the assassination. Flying back to Washington later that day aboard Air Force One, Kennedy's long-time secretary Evelyn Lincoln drew up a list of suspects. Johnson was right at the top.

### SOUTH VIETNAM

Kennedy's killing may have been an act of revenge following the assassination of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem, in a CIA-enhanced coup just three weeks before JFK's own demise. The US had been concerned that Diem was about to hand control of the country to the communists.

### THE USSR

The Cuban Missile Crisis – the superpower stand-off that had taken the world to the brink of nuclear war in 1962 – was solved when Soviet Premier Nikita Krushchev withdrew his missiles from Cuba. It was possible that the USSR wanted revenge for this, and the fact that Lee Harvey Oswald used to live in Minsk and had a Russian wife added extra layers of credibility.



Soviet influence was considered plausible; Oswald lived in Minsk and is seen here with his workmates



X-rays, sketches and expert testimony supported the Warren Report findings

◀ taken position on the railroad bridge the motorcade was about to pass under. Some even believed that a second shooter could have been staked out inside one of Elm Street's storm drains.

The public disquiet about the Zapruder footage led to the commissioning, in 1976, of the House Select Committee on Assassinations to look into the killings of both Kennedy and Martin Luther King. Its findings, presented three years later, concluded that although Oswald was the man whose shots ended the president's life, there was a high probability of a second gunman and thus of a conspiracy.

### SECOND SHOOTER

The most cogent and convincing conspiracy theory put forward is arguably the one advanced by Jim Garrison in *On the Trail of the Assassins*. First published in 1988, the book reignited the smouldering debate around the assassination, calmly dismissing the findings of the Warren Commission. These flames were further fanned by the book being the basis of the 1991 Oliver Stone film *JFK*, in which Garrison, the dogged New Orleans district attorney seeking the

clarity of truth, was played by Hollywood star *du jour* Kevin Costner.

Garrison was no idle speculator. In 1966, on the grounds that Oswald had been a resident of New Orleans a few months before the assassination, he launched a deep-reaching probe into the events leading up to that fateful day in Dallas. The investigation plotted a convincing case that the US intelligence community had orchestrated the killing in order to bring an end to Kennedy's thawing of the Cold War. Garrison even (unsuccessfully) prosecuted Clay Shaw – the founder of the International Trade Mart in New Orleans and later revealed to be a CIA operative – on charges of conspiracy to assassinate the president.

Garrison had grown increasingly dissatisfied with the Warren Report's conclusions. "Saddened and outraged," he wrote, "Americans wanted an answer. And we got one." The verdict had been a straightforward, reassuring one – even if others would become sceptical of it.

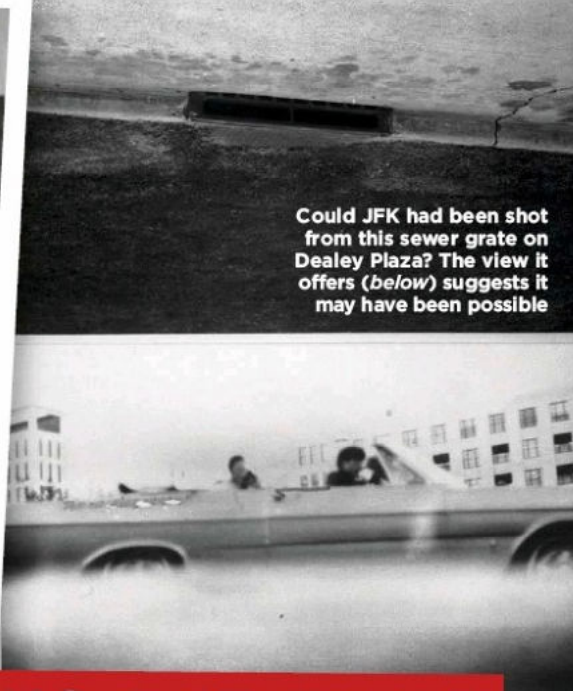


Kevin Costner as Jim Garrison in *JFK*; the film fanned theories of an alleged cover-up





Jim Garrison (right) announces the arrest of Clay Shaw - but the charge of conspiracy wouldn't stick



Could JFK had been shot from this sewer grate on Dealey Plaza? The view it offers (below) suggests it may have been possible

## "NO ONE COULD CREDIT THE TRAGEDY TO A SINGLE ASSASSIN"

WILLIAM MANCHESTER, 1967

"Most Americans readily accepted the government's contention that the assassination was a random act of violence. A lonely, young man, his mind steeped in Marxist ideology, apparently frustrated at his inability to do anything well, had crouched at a warehouse window and - in six seconds of world-class shooting - destroyed the president of the United States."

### A REAL PIG'S EAR

Garrison and his sharp-witted team unpicked a tangle of dealings and relationships between the CIA, the FBI, local politicians and underworld elements along the Gulf Coast. It appeared that a covert cabal had been established, one united by the issue of Cuba; anti-communists wanted the US to overthrow Castro, while local gangsters were eager to reassert their pre-revolution business interests on the island. Kennedy's failed Bay Of Pigs invasion in 1961 had not reassured either group. In Oswald, the erratic Marxist, they had their ideal patsy.

As a notable prosecutor, Garrison applied his calm, methodical legal mind to the case, compellingly pinpointing the contradictions and inconsistencies that underpinned the 26 volumes of the Warren Report. "I had expected to find a thorough and professional investigation. I found nothing of the sort." The evidence utilised by the

Warren Commission appeared to have been very selective; for instance, many credible witnesses ignored. "The number of promising leads that were never followed up offended my prosecutorial sensibility," sighed Garrison.

The book and film were major shapers of public opinion towards a conspiracy that was forged at the highest levels of the US establishment. Certainly, those who still have faith in the lone gunman theory are in a distinct minority.

"No one could credit the tragedy to a single assassin," William Manchester wrote back in 1967. "The president was always described as a victim of 'them', never of 'him'. The crime seemed too vast to be attributed to a single criminal. Ford's Theatre was remembered as the building in which one man shot [Abraham] Lincoln, but Dallas became the city where 'they' killed Kennedy."

More than half a century later, the identity of 'them' remains unknown, quite possibly forever. This is a case that will almost certainly never be closed. ☉

### GET HOOKED

#### BOOK

*On the Trail of the Assassins* by Jim Garrison (Ingram Publisher Services, 2013) or *Death of a President* by William Manchester (Back Bay Publishing, 2013)

#### WATCH

*JFK*, directed by Oliver Stone and starring Kevin Costner (1991)

## THE 2017 DISCLOSURES

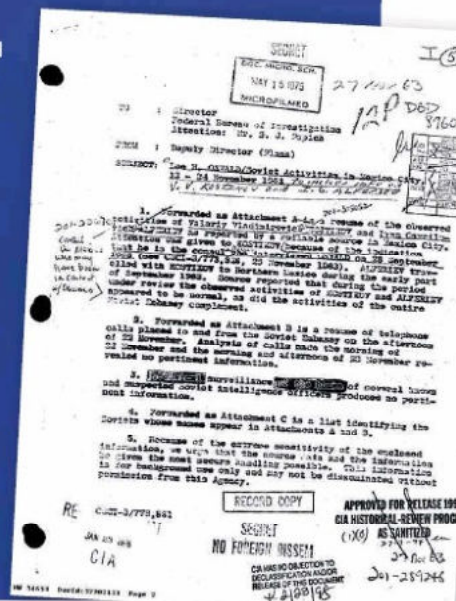
"Subject to the receipt of further information, I will be allowing, as president, the long blocked JFK FILES to be opened." Donald Trump's announcement last October (made on Twitter, of course) commanded the US National Archives to disclose all remaining government files pertaining to the assassination. But it wasn't quite the public-spirited gesture towards open and transparent government that Trump made it appear; a 1992 Congressional law had instructed all existing classified documents to be released within 25 years. The deadline was simply days away.

Such an exercise might have silenced the conspiracy theorists who, for decades, had been claiming a government cover-up over the killing. But, in the immediate wake of the presidential tweet, the White House issued a caveat, explaining that the release of documents would not be full and absolute if "agencies provide a compelling and clear national security or law enforcement justification".

And this was the case when the documents were released six days later. Most were made available, but not all. Of the 3,140 documents that had previously avoided public scrutiny, 249 were withheld or redacted on the request of various government agencies, pending a 180-day review. The previously bullish Trump explained he had no alternative but to agree, "rather than allow potentially irreversible harm to our nation's security". Of course, such a move added more fuel to the conspiracy fire.

The files that were released contained some interesting disclosures. For instance, one document asserted that, two months before JFK's death, Lee Harvey Oswald had been in contact with an "identified KGB officer" at the Russian Embassy in Mexico City, one whose department was "responsible for sabotage and assassination". Even more intriguing was a memo from FBI director J Edgar Hoover that revealed the agency had received a telephone call warning of a threat to Oswald's life after he was charged; the caller explained how he was "a member of a committee organised to kill Oswald". Hoover sought, and received, assurances from the Dallas chief of police that "adequate protection" would be given to Oswald in custody. The lax security would have significant repercussions, with Jack Ruby's intervention denying any subsequent investigation into Lee Harvey Oswald's motives.

Several of the documents related to Oswald's links with KGB agents in Mexico









# A KNIGHT'S TALE

Intrepid explorer, fraudulent fantasist or rampant plagiarist? **Giles Milton** goes looking for the real Sir John Mandeville, the medieval knight who inspired Christopher Columbus's voyages to the New World



ILLUSTRATION: SUE GENT



**T**he shore was a tangle of mangrove roots and the air was dense with humidity. Overhead, the tropical sun was burning with relentless intensity. After years of weary voyaging, the medieval English knight Sir John Mandeville had reached the utmost ends of the Earth. He was more than 5,000 miles from home.

Or so he claimed. And it was not his only claim. He said he had been on the road for a full 34 years and had undertaken an eye-stretching expedition that covered most of the known world, and much of the unknown world as well.

Rome, Greece and the Byzantine capital of Constantinople – these had formed the early years of his great adventure. He had then pressed on towards Egypt, Ethiopia and the Holy Land.

Still hungry for thrills, he had set his stirrups east and journeyed towards Armenia, India, China and beyond, traversing sun-parched deserts and ice-capped mountains. He had even visited the equatorial Andaman Islands, lost in the sweltering Bay of Bengal.

The account he wrote of his voyage, known simply as *The Travels of Sir John Mandeville*, was widely believed for centuries. Geographers used it to redraw their maps, and monastic scribes translated it from language to language until it had spread throughout all the great monasteries of Europe. By the time this globe-trotting knight died in the 1360s, his book was available in every European language, including Dutch, Gaelic, Czech, Catalan and Walloon. Indeed it was he, not Marco Polo, who was known as the 'world's greatest traveller'.

## BIGGER THAN POLO

The sheer number of surviving manuscripts is testament to Mandeville's popularity: more than 300 handwritten copies of *The Travels* still exist in Europe's libraries – four times the number of Marco Polo's book.

Early readers were captivated by his outlandish tales of pygmies and cannibals, yet the enduring importance of *The Travels* is to be found in a single yet startling passage that set the book apart from all its contemporaries. Mandeville claimed his voyage proved it was possible to set sail around the world in one direction and return home by the other.

This was something others had said was impossible. His book altered men's horizons, and it became the beacon that lit the way for the great expeditions of the Renaissance. Christopher Columbus planned his 1492 expedition after reading *The Travels*. Sir Walter Raleigh studied the



**BOHEMIAN BONHOMIE**  
The road to Constantinople was well travelled; here, Mandeville waves off fellow pilgrims in what is now Germany

book and declared that every word was true. Sir Martin Frobisher is said to have read a copy as he ploughed his pioneering route through the Northwest Passage.

But who was this elusive knight? And did he really undertake such a voyage? The passing of six long centuries presents a challenge to any historical detective, yet surviving documents provide a few clues about both the adventurer and his adventures.

Of the many John Mandevilles alive in the 1300s, one lived in the Essex

village of Black Notley, where he owned substantial land and property. In 1321, just months before our intrepid adventurer claimed to have left England, this John Mandeville sold everything he owned and disappeared for the next 37 years. Not until 1358 did he reappear, as the witness to a grant of property.

Was this Mandeville the traveller? It's possible, and there is a compelling reason for his departure. The Mandeville family's overlord, Humphrey de Bohun, had rebelled against the king, Edward II,





## FANTASTIC BEASTS (AND WHERE HE FOUND THEM)

FAR LEFT: One-legged sciopods from Ethiopia use their giant feet to shade themselves from the Sun

LEFT: The fabled 'Vegetable Lamb of Tartary' was a plant said to grow sheep as its fruit

BELOW: Sir John allegedly spied castle-bearing elephants, headless humans with their faces on their chests, and monsters born of trysts with dragons

## “Marco Polo was by no means alone in travelling to the remotest corners of Asia”

and challenged him to do battle. In the disastrous fight that followed, de Bohun's army was vanquished.

As a liegeman of the de Bohuns, John Mandeville was in serious trouble: King Edward II vowed to have his terrible revenge on the family and their vassals. If ever there was time to flee the country, it was in 1322.

### MAN ON THE RUN?

The first part of Mandeville's purported journey – to the Holy Land – is not only plausible, but probable. There was a well-trodden pilgrim trail in the Middle Ages. Thousands of pious and not-so-pious pilgrims made the annual trudge to Rome, Constantinople and Jerusalem, as well as to other shrines such as Santiago de Compostela in northwest Spain.

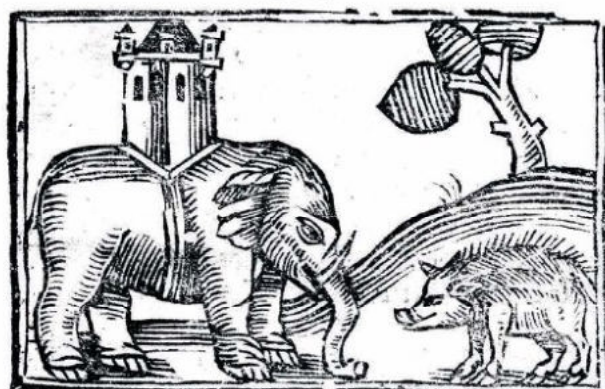
Many of Mandeville's anecdotes tally with known facts. On arriving in Constantinople, for example, he notices that the famous statue of Emperor Justinian is missing its giant globe. This much was true: the Byzantine chronicler Nicephoros Gregoras records that the globe was badly damaged in the terrible storm of 1317. It took eight years to repair.

Nor is there any reason to doubt Mandeville's claim to have visited the remote St Catherine's Monastery in the Sinai. The medieval graffiti scratched into the refectory ceiling is testimony to the huge numbers of pilgrims who flocked here from right across Europe.

But Mandeville's purported expedition to the opulent East is rather more suspect. Long-distance travelling was certainly possible in the Middle Ages, and Marco Polo was by no means alone in travelling to the remotest corners of Asia. The Italian diplomat, John of Plano Carpini, visited Mongolia in 1246, while Friar Odoric of Pordenone – a contemporary of Mandeville – made it to China in the 1320s. But such voyages were the exception, not the norm.

One of Mandeville's wildest claims came from the shores of Indo-China: here, he watched spellbound as a gigantic snail slithered through the tropical vegetation with four excited men riding atop its shell. Soon afterwards, he chanced upon a group of men and women with heads like dogs. And there were other marvels as well: two-headed geese, men with gigantic testicles and sheep that grew on trees. In Tibet, he wrote of savages eating their dead parents; in India, of elephants carrying giant castles on their backs.

His stories are so outlandish that many believe them to be the work of a fraudulent fantasist. Yet not all can be dismissed out of hand. What if that snail was actually a giant tortoise? And what if those dog-faced humans were actually baboons? Even the castle-backed elephants might have an explanation. For many centuries, Indian rulers rode around in elaborately





## TRAVALLERS' TALES

### JOHN OF PLANO CARPINI

► An Italian explorer, diplomat and archbishop, in 1246 he became one of the first Europeans to visit the Mongol court of the Great Khan. He also wrote the first major European account of northern and central Asia. On his return to Europe he was made Primate of Serbia. He died in 1252.



### SIMILAR STORIES

John of Plano Carpini also reported meeting hound-headed humans

### ODORIC OF PORDENONE

An Italian Franciscan friar, Odoric was sent to the East in 1318 to visit Christian missions in Armenia and Persia. He then made for India, the springboard for greater adventures. He sailed for Java, Borneo and China, visiting the Great Khan in present-day Beijing. He returned to Italy in 1329, more than a decade after he left Padua.

### JOHN OF MONTECORVINO

An Italian Franciscan missionary, he was founder of the earliest Catholic missions in India and China, where he became Latin Patriarch of the Orient. He reached China in 1294, shortly after the death of Kublai Khan. He died in what is now Beijing in 1328.

### WILLIAM OF RUBRUCK

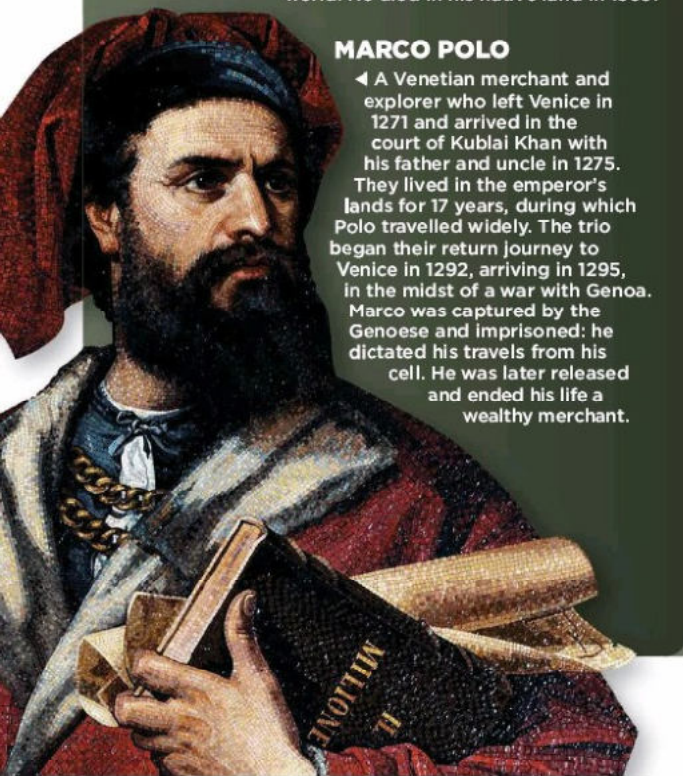
The Flemish Franciscan missionary and explorer William of Rubruck left Constantinople for the East in 1253. He visited the Volga before heading to the court of the Great Khan in Karakorum. He returned home safely, and died circa 1293.

### IBN BATTUTA

This Moroccan scholar travelled widely over a period of three decades, visiting North Africa, the Middle East, India, Central Asia and China. His book, *A Gift to Those Who Contemplate the Wonders of Cities and the Marvels of Travelling*, is a vivid and unique portrayal of the medieval world. He died in his native land in 1369.

### MARCO POLO

◀ A Venetian merchant and explorer who left Venice in 1271 and arrived in the court of Kublai Khan with his father and uncle in 1275. They lived in the emperor's lands for 17 years, during which Polo travelled widely. The trio began their return journey to Venice in 1292, arriving in 1295, in the midst of a war with Genoa. Marco was captured by the Genoese and imprisoned: he dictated his travels from his cell. He was later released and ended his life a wealthy merchant.



### MYSTERY KNIGHT

There are many illustrations of Sir John Mandeville, but no-one knows who the author really was – or even if this was his real name

“His stories are so outlandish that many believe them to be the work of a fraudulent fantasist”

◀ decorated howdahs – canopied platforms strapped to the backs of elephants.

The problem with Mandeville's account is that too many of his stories bear an uncanny resemblance to those of his contemporaries, and especially those of Friar Odoric. Plagiarism was widely accepted in the Middle Ages, yet Mandeville seems to have cut-and-pasted with abandon, copying great chunks of Odoric's work.

But he was such a consummate raconteur that his narrative is far more believable than Odoric's genuine account. The friar was no wordsmith and his travelogue lacks charm and colour, whereas Sir John's is humming with detail. Mandeville describes the

smells, the colours of fabrics and the shimmer of candlelight on the gilded thread of the imperial garments. He even has the chutzpah to say that the friar asked to join him for a particularly dangerous part of the journey.

One of the finest scenes in *The Travels* is lifted directly from Odoric's account of an imperial Chinese banquet. In Mandeville's hands, the friar's workaday prose is transformed into a scene of barbaric splendour – an opulent feasting hall filled with the laughter and clatter of imperial retainers. As Mandeville watches from the shadows, a powerful voice roars across the candlelit hall: “Let every man do obeisance and bow to the emperor.” In a flash, a thousand



retainers bow deeply to the floor. It's a moment of great theatre.

In recent years, textual analysis has proved beyond doubt that the second half of Mandeville's work is a skilful compendium of other travellers' material. He lifted anecdotes from a dozen genuine travelogues and overlaid them with his inimitable wit.

Yet few have been able to explain why he might have done such a thing, unaware that there is a hidden meaning inside *The Travels*. It is a meaning that can only be discovered by journeying deep into the medieval mindset.

Mandeville lived in an age of bards and troubadours, when literary entertainment revolved around elaborate puns and riddles. But these riddles always contained a revelation – a kernel of truth – and *The Travels* is no exception.

## THE STING IN THE TALE

The clue is to be found in the two-part structure of the book. In the first part, Mandeville plays the pious pilgrim, doing penance at the holy sites of Christendom. He invites his readers to travel with him and share in his religious fervour.

Fortified with his new-found piety, Mandeville embarks on the second leg of his voyage, plunging the reader into the wilder realms of India and Indo-China. It is there, in one of the then remotest corners of the globe, that he springs a surprise. Far from criticising the savages he encounters, he presents them as far more pious than any Christian he met on his pilgrimage.

He even approves of the cannibalistic priest he sees chopping a human corpse into bite-size morsels of flesh. And he adds a telling detail: "He has a cup made from the cranium of the head, and he drinks from it all his lifetime, in remembrance of his father."

This last line would have pricked the ears of every medieval reader. Each Sunday at church, he would hear the priest repeat Christ's injunction to "do this in remembrance of Me". Mandeville doesn't condemn the priest, as might be expected. Instead, he celebrates his cannibalism as an act of simple piety. He had very good reason for doing so.

For centuries, churchmen had been sceptical about the possibility of sailing beyond the 'torrid zone' that was believed to surround the Earth. They were even sceptical about the existence of the Antipodes. St Augustine himself had said that "as to the fable that there are Antipodes, that is to say, men on the opposite side of the Earth ... there is no reason for believing it".

His objection was theological. The human race was one, and it lived under

## THE MEDIEVAL WORLD VIEW

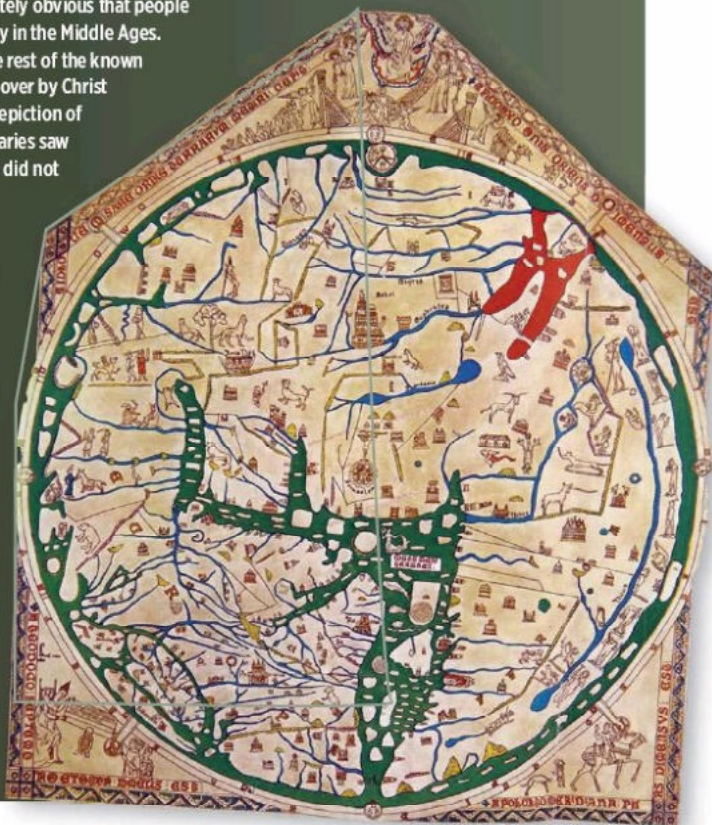
Glance at any medieval map and it is immediately obvious that people viewed the world in a completely different way in the Middle Ages.

Jerusalem is at the centre of the map, with the rest of the known world encircling it, and everything is watched over by Christ and the angels. There is good reason for the depiction of Christ: Sir John Mandeville and his contemporaries saw geography through the prism of the Bible and did not turn to maps for topographical accuracy.

The famous Hereford map (circa 1300, shown here) is one of the finest surviving examples. Jerusalem and the Garden of Eden are given prominence, while Britain is a mere speck in the corner. Of America, Australia and other landmasses yet to be discovered, there is no trace.

Early travellers to the East had little to guide them on their journeys, and it took many decades before their discoveries were incorporated into the latest topographical charts. It was not until the great Renaissance explorations of the late 1400s and early 1500s, which took Europeans to Africa, the East Indies and North America, that cartographers began drawing coastlines with accuracy.

**ALL KNOWN CREATION**  
The Hereford Mappa Mundi  
is the largest medieval  
world map still in existence



God's benign rule. It was impossible to countenance a whole other race of men in existence, as yet unknown to God.

Mandeville was determined to prove such teachings wrong. He insisted that God was everywhere, whether it be Europe, Asia or amongst peoples living in lands as yet undiscovered. He had witnessed God's presence when travelling amongst cannibalistic pagans. Their prayers were not Christian and

they had no knowledge of the Catholic church, but they nevertheless believed in the existence of God.

If God was everywhere, then it stood to reason that man could sail everywhere – just as long as he could overcome the practical difficulties. There was no Godless torrid zone; no terrifying void that would consume their ships. The Antipodes could be visited and Earth could be circumnavigated.

"So I say truly," he concludes, "that a man could go all round the world, above and below, and return to his own country, provided he had his health, good company and a ship. And all the way he would find men, lands, islands, cities and towns."

It was a striking passage for Mandeville's contemporaries – one with a powerful resonance. It's worth mentioning again that Christopher Columbus read these words shortly before deciding to embark on his 1492 voyage across the Atlantic. He was convinced. Fraudster or not, Sir John Mandeville was to transform the world. ☉

**THE DOGS OF WAR**  
Cynocephales, men with canine heads, run amok on Nacumera Island, where they worshipped oxen at the altar



## GET HOOKED

### READ

*The Riddle and the Knight: In Search of Sir John Mandeville* by Giles Milton (John Murray, 2001).





#### READY FOR ACTION

Roman soldiers carried javelins known as *pila*. They'd hurl these at their enemies before closing in for combat with short stabbing swords called *gladii*

#### HOLLYWOOD GLAMOUR

In a scene from Ridley Scott's epic *Gladiator*, armoured Roman legionaries and mail-clad auxiliaries prepare to do battle with Germanic tribesmen

#### WOODEN WALL

Known as a *scutum*, a Roman shield protected much of a soldier's body. Most were probably oval in shape at the time of Teutoburg





# Imperial Rome's greatest defeat

When Germanic warriors annihilated three Roman legions in Teutoburg Forest in AD 9, the tremors were felt across the empire.

**Julian Humphrys** explores the disaster

**R**ome was in a state of shock. It was AD 9 and word had just reached the city that three veteran legions under Quintilius Varus, representing more than a tenth of the entire imperial army, had been wiped out by an alliance of Germanic tribes.

The defeat was so unexpected and so comprehensive that the entire empire seemed in danger. According to the Roman historian Suetonius, Emperor Augustus was so shaken by the news that he stood banging his head against the walls of his palace, repeatedly shouting: "Quintilius Varus, give me back my legions!"

Years earlier, as the first century BC approached its end, Augustus had decided that Germania needed to be brought under Roman control. He may well have hoped to create a buffer by extending Roman rule from the Rhine to the Elbe.

A series of campaigns, first under Drusus and then his brother, the future Emperor Tiberius, saw the defeat of the Germanic tribes east of the Rhine and the extension of Roman influence across much of Germania Magna, as the Romans called the region. The next step would be to 'Romanise' these lands, and Augustus had just the man for the job: Quintilius Varus, the husband of his great-niece.

Varus had been governor of Africa and then Syria, where he had earned a reputation as a successful administrator and able diplomat, and he had done a good job keeping a number of client rulers in line. In AD 7, he was made governor of the new German province and given

command of the XVII, XVIII and XIX infantry legions, together with cavalry and auxiliary units, to control it.

On the face of it, the portents were good. There was a thriving cross-border trade, with German tribes supplying food, iron, cattle and slaves in exchange for Roman gold, silver and luxury goods. Some of the tribes had already pledged allegiance to Rome, large numbers of Germanic warriors had joined the Roman army as auxiliaries, and many young German aristocrats were serving with the Romans in order to gain military experience.

## HIDDEN RESENTMENT

One such man was a 25-year-old prince of the Cherusci, a Germanic tribe from the valley of the Weser, near the modern city of Minden.

We don't know his tribal name, but he was known to the Romans as Arminius.

He seemed to be a model auxiliary. As a child he had been sent as a hostage to

Rome to assure the tribe's good behaviour following its defeat at

the hands of Drusus in 8 BC, and during that time he would have been given the same education as any young Roman aristocrat. When he came of age, he was made an eques (knight) and given a commission as an officer of auxiliary cavalry. Yet all was not as it seemed.

Beneath the Germans' apparent acquiescence lurked a simmering resentment towards the Romans – a resentment that Arminius felt as bitterly as anyone. From the moment that Varus arrived, Arminius began to plan an uprising against Roman rule. He knew full well that in a pitched encounter his lightly armed warriors would be no

**15,000**

Romans fought under Varus at Teutoburg, but only a handful lived to tell the tale





**NO WAY OUT**  
Modern-day re-enactors  
recreate the failed  
Roman attempt to storm  
the German rampart



match for Varus's armoured legions. He had to find somewhere with terrain that both suited his style of fighting and would prevent the Romans from forming the solid line of battle that had brought them victory so many times before.

The plan he came up with was simple and brilliant. He would report a rebellion in territory that the Romans were unfamiliar with, persuade them that they could and should deal with it, and then lead them into a carefully prepared trap.

In AD 9, as Varus and his 15,000 men prepared to march westwards from their summer quarters on the River Weser towards their permanent bases near the Rhine for the winter, Arminius made his move. He arranged for some of his allies, probably warriors from the Bructeri or Angrivarii tribes, to attack Roman bases and work parties located in Cheruscan territory. Then, when news of the raids reached Varus, Arminius advised the Roman leader that it would be easy enough to make a short detour to chastise the rebellious tribes before continuing the march to the Rhine.

Another German chieftain, Segestes, repeatedly warned Varus not to trust Arminius, but Varus took no notice – and so the Roman legions took the detour that would soon lead to their destruction. Arminius was sent ahead with his auxiliary cavalry; Varus thought he was going to rally some of his tribesmen to help put down the rebellion.

## STRETCHED THIN

As Varus's main force followed along the paths that snaked through forests, fields and marshes, the long line of legionaries, auxiliaries, camp followers and baggage carts became dangerously strung out. To make things worse, the weather was appalling.

Writing in the third century, the historian Cassius Dio described the plight of Varus's men. They were, he said, "having a hard time of it felling trees, building roads, and bridging places that required it ... meanwhile, a violent rain and wind came up that separated them still further, while the ground, that had become slippery around the roots and logs, made walking very treacherous for them, and the tops of the trees kept breaking off and falling down, causing much confusion."

It was now that the tribesmen launched the first in a series of hit-and-run attacks, dashing in to attack stragglers or weak spots in the column, only to fall back to the safety of the forest as soon as the Romans showed any sign of effective resistance.

Slowly but surely, the waterlogged Roman army was being worn down. The nearest Roman base lay at Haltern, some 60 miles to the southwest, so Varus pressed on towards it. On the third day, he and his exhausted legions reached the Kalkrieser-Niewedder Senke, a narrow corridor bounded by a steep hill to the south and an



**SWORD SUICIDE**  
Varus falls on his blade  
rather than be taken  
captive by the Germans

**"It was the  
perfect spot for  
an ambush"**

Only a handful managed to escape and make their way to safety, and when they did the story they told was shocking. As Velleius Paterculus, a retired officer who was a contemporary of Varus later put it: "An army unexcelled in bravery, the first of Roman armies in discipline, in energy, and in experience in the field, through the negligence of its general, the perfidy of the enemy, and the unkindness of fortune ... was exterminated almost to a man by the very enemy whom it has always slaughtered like cattle."

## CAT AND MOUSE WAR

The Roman army's reputation for invincibility had been completely destroyed. As news of the disaster spread, Roman bases in Germany were either hastily abandoned or overrun. Emperor Augustus, fearing that Arminius might march on Rome itself, expelled all Germans and Gauls from the city. But Arminius's eyes were firmly fixed on Germany. He took Varus's severed head and had it sent to Maroboduus, another powerful Germanic leader, with the offer of an anti-Roman alliance. Maroboduus declined, sending the head to Rome for burial, and remained neutral throughout the fighting that followed.

Roman retaliation was inevitable. Imperial forces on the Rhine were boosted from five legions to eight, and Tiberius and later Germanicus were ordered to avenge the defeat and punish Arminius. This was easier said than done, for the Cheruscan chief proved a wily foe.

In AD 15, Roman forces under Germanicus finally returned to the Teutoburg battlefield,

**3,000**

Roman coins  
have been  
found at the  
site so far

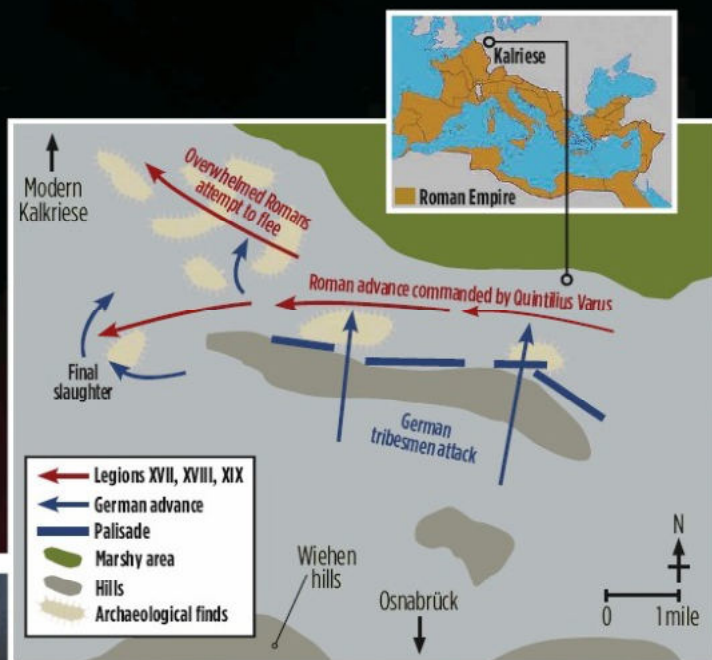
impenetrable marsh to the north. The pass was some four miles long but less than 200 yards wide – it was the perfect spot for an ambush, and Arminius knew it. There is archaeological evidence here that the Germans built a series of low turf walls and sand ramparts along the bottom of the hill. Not only did these keep the Germans hidden, they also narrowed the path, denying the Romans the space they needed to form up properly into a line of battle. As the battered Roman column filed into the pass, it found itself trapped in a deadly bottleneck from which there was no escape. Archaeological finds also suggest that some of the Romans tried to storm the ramparts, but to no avail.

Realising that there was no way out, and knowing that if he fell into the hands of the Germans his end would be a long and messy one, Varus chose to commit suicide, falling on his sword in the traditional Roman manner. Attacked from all sides by the triumphant Germanic warriors, the remaining soldiers of Varus's legions were massacred.



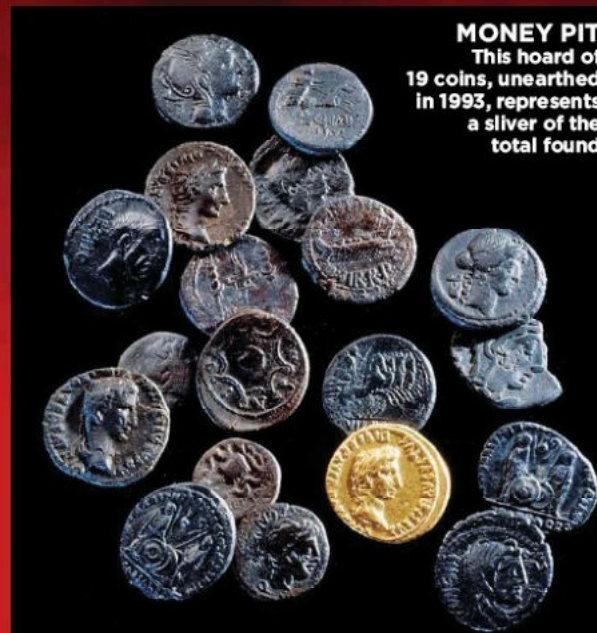
## FINDING THE BATTLEFIELD

As time went on, the site of the fighting was gradually forgotten. The actual location, at Kalkriese, Osnabrück, was discovered in 1987 by British soldier and metal detectorist Tony Clunn, who initially found a number of coins and, significantly, three lead slingshots. Professional archaeologists investigated and confirmed that this was indeed the scene of the battle. Since the early 1990s, more than 5,000 battle-related objects have been found along a corridor some 15 miles long and one mile wide – evidence of the mobile nature of the fighting. These have included human bones, spearheads, pieces of armour, nails, and bells that once hung from the necks of Roman mules. There is also evidence of the long turf wall that played such an important part in the Roman defeat.



### DEATH MASK

This iron face plate would have been part of a cavalryman's helmet



### MONEY PIT

This hoard of 19 coins, unearthed in 1993, represents a sliver of the total found

### RECOVERED RELICS

Bolts, lance heads and a fragment of a blade



### SKULL SCIENCE

The bones excavated by archaeologists tell their own story of the battle



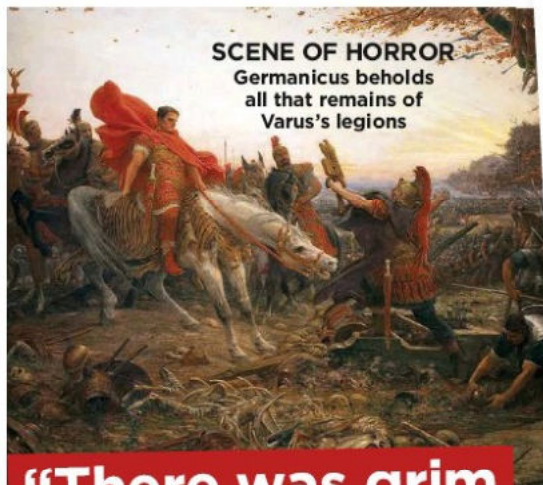


and what they found there horrified them. Human heads were nailed to trees, there was grim evidence of human sacrifice and the bones of dead men and animals lay everywhere.

After pausing to oversee the burial of his dead comrades, Germanicus resumed the pursuit. He enjoyed some successes, recapturing two of the precious eagle standards that had been lost at Teutoburg, but came close to defeat himself when his four legions were ambushed by Arminius – only divisions amongst the Cheruscan commanders spared him from disaster, and the Romans managed to escape the trap that had been set for them and rout the Germans. The following year Germanicus once again defeated Arminius, this time at Idistaviso, somewhere near Minden, but the Roman appetite for warfare across the Rhine was waning. Despite his protests, Germanicus was recalled to Rome in AD 16.

### A BLOODY END

In AD 17, Arminius was at war again, this time against his old rival King Maroboduus. Arminius was victorious and Maroboduus was forced to appeal to Tiberius, now Emperor of Rome, for sanctuary. Arminius was now at the height of his powers – but for many he was now just too powerful. In AD 21, he was murdered by a member of his own family. The Roman historian Tacitus wrote of him: “Make no mistake. Arminius was the liberator of Germany, one who defied Rome, not in her early rise, as other kings and generals, but in the height of her empire’s glory. The battles he fought were indeed indecisive, yet



**“There was grim evidence of human sacrifice”**

he remained unconquered in war. He lived for 37 years, 12 of them in power, and he is still the subject of song among barbarous nations.”

Arminius was never the unifying figure that later German nationalists made him out to be, and his victory at Teutoburg didn't prevent the Romans from returning in force shortly afterwards. But his resistance was a major factor in leading Rome to abandon its ambitions of making the collection of independent tribal kingdoms we now call Germany part of its

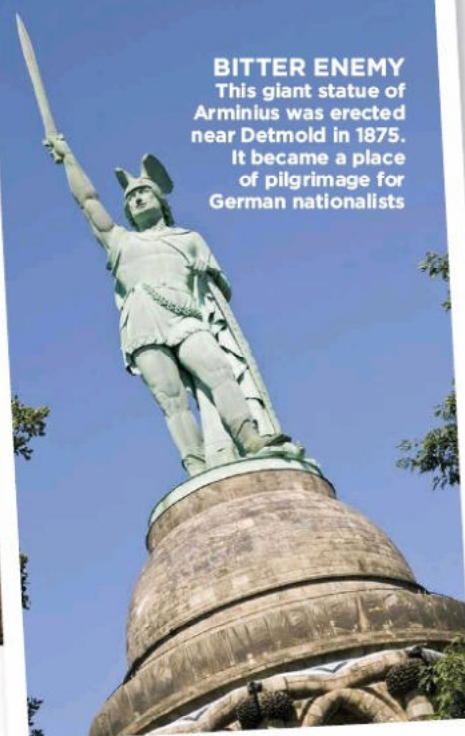
empire. Roman troops would indeed cross the Rhine in the future, but these would be punitive campaigns, not wars of conquest. The river would remain a boundary between Germanic and Latin cultures. 📍

### GET HOOKED

#### VISIT

Find out more about the battle and see many of the archaeological finds at the Kalkriese Museum in Bramsche, Osnabrück

**BITTER ENEMY**  
This giant statue of Arminius was erected near Detmold in 1875. It became a place of pilgrimage for German nationalists



## NOT SO INVINCIBLE AFTER ALL

Teutoburg was no one-off – here are five other occasions when the mighty Roman war machine broke down...

### CANNAE (216 BC)

▼ Disaster struck when Republican Rome's main field army, led by consuls Varro and Paullus, took on Hannibal's Carthaginians in southeast Italy. Despite having the advantage of numbers, they were caught in a pincer movement, surrounded and massacred. According to

classical writers, 50,000 Romans were killed and 10,000 captured.

### ARAUSIO (105 BC)

Two Roman armies confronted the tribes of the Cimbri and the Teutoni near Arausio in southern France, but bitter differences between the Roman commanders – Quintus Servilius Caepio and Gnaeus Mallius Maximus – prevented them from co-operating, with disastrous consequences. Both armies were completely destroyed. Some 80,000 troops are said to have been slain, together with 40,000 auxiliaries and camp followers.

in modern-day Turkey. Most of the Romans were killed or taken prisoner, and Crassus himself died when truce negotiations broke down and turned violent.

### EDESSA (AD 260)

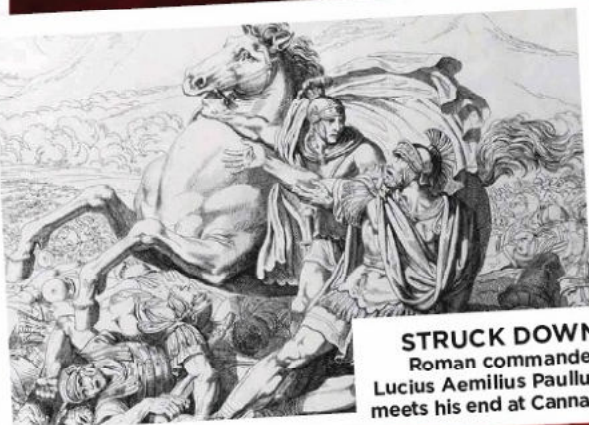
An entire Roman army was captured by the Persians at Edessa in southern Turkey, with Emperor Valerian himself amongst the prisoners. Accounts vary over Valerian's fate: some say the Romans were relatively well treated and Valerian was eventually released; others claim that the Persian king Shapur humiliated the elderly emperor by using him as a footstool and, when Valerian eventually died, had his body stuffed with straw and displayed as a trophy.

### CARRHAE (53 BC)

Marcus Licinius Crassus, the richest man in Rome and a member of the Third Triumvirate (alongside Pompey and Julius Caesar) took it upon himself to invade Parthia without the consent of the Senate. Despite being heavily outnumbered, the Parthian cavalry outmaneuvered the Roman heavy infantry at Carrhae

### ADRIANOPLE (AD 378)

Valens, the emperor of the eastern part of the empire, tried to quell a Gothic uprising in Thrace by attacking the Goths outside the city of Adrianople. But the Goths were much more numerous than Valens had realised. Led by their chieftain Fritigern, they beat off a number of uncoordinated Roman attacks on their camp before counterattacking with their heavy cavalry. Up to 40,000 Romans may have died, including Valens.



**STRUCK DOWN**  
Roman commander Lucius Aemilius Paullus meets his end at Cannae



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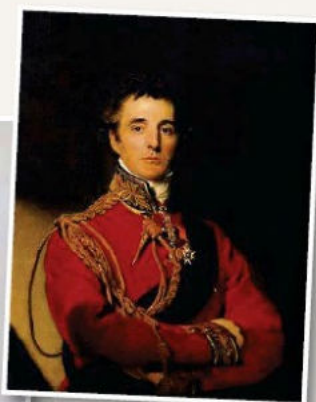
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# Art relic animosities

They were stolen, looted or acrimoniously acquired – should they now be returned?

Priam's Treasure dates back to the early Bronze Age



A krater was a large vase (this one holds 45 litres), used to water down wine

This scene is from the Trojan War, depicting the fall of Sarpedon, son of Zeus and Laodamia



## EUPHRONIOS KRATER

Archaeological Museum of Cerveteri, Italy

No Ancient Greek wine vessel is as hotly contested as this one. One of 27 vases painted by renowned artist Euphronios, it was probably looted from an Etruscan tomb in 1971. In 1972, it was sold to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. When it was alleged that it had been trafficked by notorious antiquities dealer Giacomo Medici, the museum hired a private detective to investigate. After Medici was found guilty, the museum reluctantly repatriated the vessel to Italy.

## PRIAM'S TREASURE

Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts, Moscow

Oddly, this trove of golden jewellery and weaponry did not originate in either of the two places that have laid claim to it. The treasure was discovered in 1873, in a site rumoured to be the remnants of the great city of Troy – so its discoverer, Heinrich Schliemann, named the find after Troy's king, Priam. He took his haul back to Germany but, in World War II, the Soviets looted the lot. Russia contends that it should keep the treasure, despite a treaty that promises to return stolen artefacts, as compensation for the destruction of Soviet cities by Germany in the war.

## ELGIN MARBLES

British Museum

The Earl of Elgin visited Athens in 1801 and fell in love with its ancient landscape, so he sought permission from the Ottoman government (the then rulers of Greece) to chip off the frescoes that lined the top of the great Parthenon – these are the Elgin Marbles. Now they are held by the British Museum. The argument against returning them has traditionally been that Greece does not have an appropriate place to store the priceless artefacts, but the Greeks beg to differ.



The Marbles include 75 metres of the Parthenon's frieze



Two bronzes have already been returned, by a pensioner who inherited them from his grandfather

## BENIN BRONZES

British Museum (and elsewhere)

These bronze plaques are from the kingdom of Benin, in what's now Nigeria. In the late-19th century, several hundred pieces were taken by colonisers and placed in the British Museum. In 2002, a declassified report revealed that a small number of pieces had been sold, many to the Nigerian government, prompting an outcry. The clamour has only grown stronger, and last year the museum finally announced it was looking to return the plaques.





## ISHTAR GATE

Pergamon Museum, Berlin

This stunning blue entrance to the city of Babylon, hidden for millennia under the sand, was excavated before World War I by a German team. They took its bricks back home, and reconstructed the entire gate inside the Pergamon Museum, painting it in its original blue and replacing lost stonework. Iraq is naturally keen to see its ancient past restored, and has built a replica gate in its place, while it continues to request that Germany return its precious treasure.

The gate was built around 575 BC on the orders of Nebuchadnezzar II

The same year it was returned, the portrait was sold to the Neue Galerie in New York for the record price of \$135 million

## KOH-I-NOOR

Crown Jewels, Tower of London

This huge diamond sits at the front of the Queen Mother's crown. At 105 carats, it's one of the largest in the world, and was probably larger when it was found in an Indian mine. It had a long history as the pride of the Mughal emperors, but it found its way into British hands – and was gifted to Queen Victoria – after the conquest of the Punjab in 1849. Since that time, it has been in Britain's possession, though many nations have claimed it as their own, including India, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The diamond was also set in the state crown of Queen Mary, consort of George V

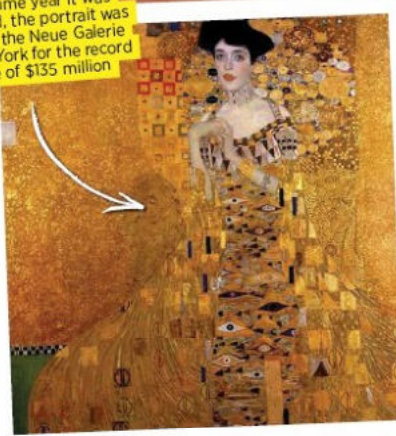


## ZODIAC HEADS

National Museum of China, Beijing

In 1860, during the Second Opium War, British and French troops destroyed the Old Summer Palace in Beijing and looted 12 bronze heads depicting the animals of the Chinese zodiac. By 2009, five had been returned, five had gone missing and the remaining two – the rabbit and rat – were up for auction. A Chinese man won, but refused to pay, claiming he had bid on "moral and patriotic grounds". The debate over ownership raged on, until the heads were finally restored to China in 2013.

The missing heads were once in the private collection of fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent



Confusingly, Adele did gift the painting to the Galerie Belvedere in her will, prior to the Nazis stealing it – but it was not hers to give away

## WOMAN IN GOLD

Neue Galerie, New York

After being looted by the Nazis, Gustav Klimt's 'Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I', was gifted to the Galerie Belvedere in Vienna. Her niece, Maria Altmann, fought the Austrian government for eight years to have the painting (plus four other Klimts) returned to the family – which they were in 2006.

The Egyptian relic remains in London, for now



## ROSETTA STONE

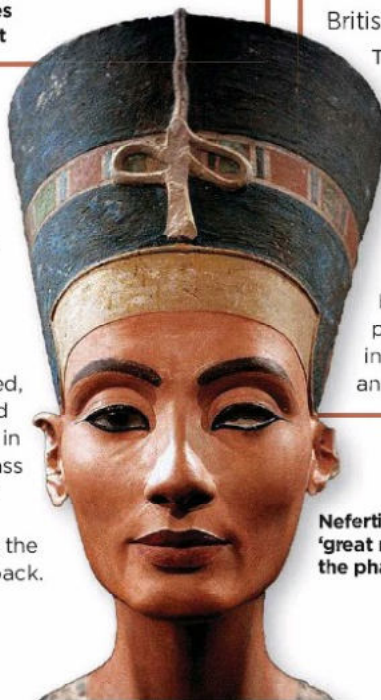
British Museum

The key to deciphering Egypt's ancient history, the Rosetta Stone has been a star attraction of the British Museum since its arrival in 1802. But as with many artefacts in said museum, it has a controversial past. Fought over by the French and the British in the Napoleonic era, and now coveted by Egypt, its immense historical value makes it utterly priceless. Egypt first formally requested its repatriation in 2003, on the British Museum's 250th anniversary, and has continued to reiterate its claims – to no avail.

## NEFERTITI BUST

Neues Museum, Berlin

This bust of the beautiful Queen Nefertiti stares wistfully out of its glass case in the Neues Museum in Berlin, where it has been since 1924. Naturally, Egypt would like one of its most famous artefacts returned. In the 1930s, Hermann Göring considered giving it back, but Hitler refused, saying he would "never relinquish the head of the queen". The controversy continues: in 2007, former antiquities minister Zahi Hawass threatened to halt Egyptian exhibitions in German museums until the bust was repatriated; Germany, meanwhile, claimed the bust was too fragile to make the journey back.



Nefertiti was the 'great royal wife' of the pharaoh Akhenaten

**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**  
Should these artefacts be repatriated to their countries of origin? Let us know!  
Email: [editor@historyrevealed.com](mailto:editor@historyrevealed.com)



**BEREFT, HUNGRY,  
ABANDONED**

This figure is one  
several sculptures of  
starvation-stricken men  
and women, trudging  
alongside the River  
Liffey in the centre of  
Dublin - her haunted  
expression says it all





# THE GREAT HUNGER

Britain's relationship with Ireland is peppered with drama but, writes **Pat Kinsella**, one episode in modern history more than any other proved a watershed moment: the 1845–49 Potato Famine

**I**n less than a decade in the mid-19th century, the population of Ireland plummeted from 8.25 million to just over 6.5 million. Many were forced to flee their famine-struck homeland – then as much a part of the United Kingdom as Cornwall is today – in dangerously overloaded ‘coffin ships’. The rest perished. The story of how a million deaths from mostly preventable disease and hunger happened on the doorstep of the world's wealthiest country still shocks.

The collective impact of the Irish Potato Famine, the British government's reaction to it, and the resultant exodus of emigrants was profound and long lasting. The diaspora of Irish people and Irish culture, all over the globe, not to mention the famine itself, generated a focussed fury that's been articulated in nationalist politics, poetry and folk songs ever since, and remains a thread in the fabric of the modern country. Ireland continued to haemorrhage its human resources long after the famine ended, and the legacy of the Great Hunger – famine roads, ghost villages and memorials – can be seen across the land.

## WHY RELY ON POTATO?

Ireland was brought into the United Kingdom by the 1800 Act of Union. The politicians who represented the country in Westminster, the vast majority of whom were wealthy, Protestant landlords with Irish holdings, were very often based in England. Most rent collected from the poor Catholic tenants – who comprised four-fifths of Ireland's population – went straight out of the country via oft-unscrupulous middlemen and into the coffers of these absentee landlords. The profits from almost everything produced in Ireland also travelled in the same direction.

Cattle farming took place, and crops such as corn were grown, but almost all of the exportable food produced in

Ireland was transported to mainland Britain. Dairy and corn-based products sold in Ireland were well beyond the meagre means of the vast majority, thanks to Britain's controversial Corn Laws. These imposed tariffs on imported goods and kept prices of locally produced food high, for the benefit of the landowning class. Increasingly, the Irish became almost wholly dependent on potatoes. They were cheap, easy to grow and calorie dense but, as it turned out, genetically weak and prone to disease.

Spuds are incredibly nutritious, and some historians have credited a potato-heavy diet as a major contributing factor to the relatively low infant mortality rate in Ireland from the mid-18th century to the mid-19th century, an era that saw the island's population more than triple in less than 100 years. Yet this population explosion, combined with bad land management by absent landlords and their ruthless middlemen, saw large families surviving on ever-smaller plots of land. One fragile food source accounted for 60 per cent of Ireland's entire food needs, and there was no affordable alternative in event of failure.

So when a blight (a kind of mold called *Phytophthora infestans*) swept across Europe and embraced the damp conditions it found in Ireland, the scene was set for a complete catastrophe.

## THE BLIGHT BITES

Initial reports about a ‘malady’ in the potato crops of America began appearing in newspapers in 1844; by August 1845, the blight jumped the Atlantic, and reached Britain and continental Europe. Shortly after it was suspected in Ireland, and when the crop was harvested, the people's worst fears were realised. Cruelly, the potatoes often looked healthy when pulled up, only to rapidly turn into a putrid mush.

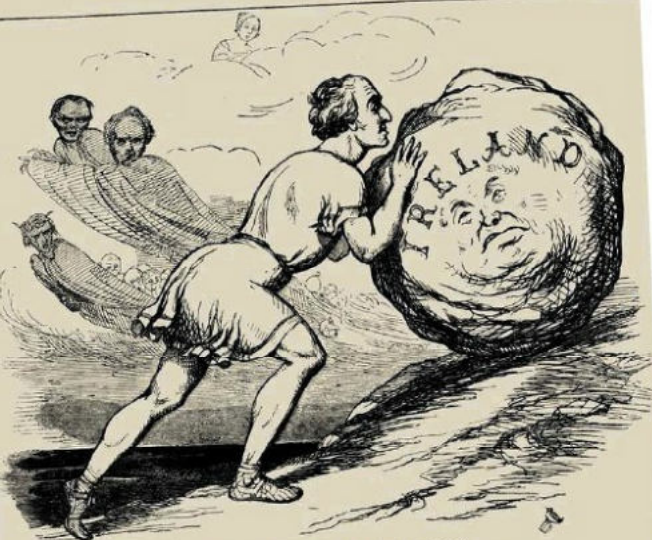


**THE EYES HAVE IT**  
A US poster warns of the tell-tale indicators of blight setting in



**DOWNY MILDEW AND ROT OF POTATO**  
*Phytophthora infestans*, D. By





THE MODERN SISYPHUS.

"Sisyphus is said to be damned for ever to roll to the top of a great mountain a stone, which continually falls down again."  
 BY THE P. L. THE STONE D. O'—L. THE PERIOD LORD J. R. 1847.



**ENDLESS WOE**  
 ABOVE LEFT: Peel as Sisyphus, forever rolling the 'stone' of Ireland  
 RIGHT: Emaciated people were increasingly made homeless and left to wander the country

Between a third and half the crop was ruined in 1845, but it was far worse in 1846, when up to 75 per cent of the potato harvest was inedible. This led to a scarcity of seed potatoes being planted, which compounded the problem in 1847, despite an improvement in yield that year. In 1848, the blight struck hard again, and by this stage millions were destitute, many families had been evicted from their homes and deadly diseases were at epidemic levels.

Many more people perished from pestilence caused by deprivation than from actual starvation. Black fever (typhus), bacillary dysentery, relapsing fever, scurvy and famine dropsy (hunger oedema, swelling of the body to bursting point) were all rife. And in 1849, when the worst appeared to be over, an epidemic of cholera swept the country, badly hitting towns and cities like Dublin and Belfast.

The traditional nationalist narrative (which was very much framed by the famine ever after) paints a grim picture

of the heartless British government turning its back on the Irish and simply letting them die. This isn't quite true, at least not at the start.

Conservative Prime Minister Sir Robert Peel acted reasonably swiftly to try and avert disaster. He imported £100,000 of Indian grain to be distributed to those in immediate danger of starvation, and established a programme of public works, providing people with a subsistence wage to purchase alternative food supplies. Peel also defied



his own party and successfully repealed the Corn Laws, but this – combined with a defeat during his attempt to implement an Irish Coercion Act – led to his resignation as Prime Minister.

## THE CRISIS DEEPENS

Peel was succeeded by a Whig government led by Lord John Russell. It took a more fundamentalist approach, based on the popular political and economic ideologies of the era: self help and laissez-faire, which opposed the provision of charity and rejected interference in the economy.

The distribution of relief – including a short-lived but very cheap and effective soup-kitchen system, which fed up to three million people for the six months it was in operation – was completely halted. Hundreds of thousands of destitute people were forced to toil on often-pointless public works (building roads leading nowhere, later known as 'famine roads', and erecting walls around nothing) or forced into brutally overcrowded

## FAMINE IN NUMBERS



**80 MILLION**

Number of people worldwide who claim some Irish descent in the 21st century (well over ten times Ireland's contemporary population)

**500,000**

Estimated number of destitute people in Ireland evicted from their homes between 1846 and 1854



**75 MILLION**

People killed by famine worldwide in the 20th century



**4,000**

Vessels carrying food from Ireland to the ports of Bristol, Glasgow, Liverpool and London during 1847, as 400,000 Irish men, women and children died of starvation and disease







**NO ONE HOME**  
Abandoned villages still  
dot the Irish countryside,  
physical reminders of a  
generation lost

**“God sent the calamity  
... it must not be too  
much mitigated”**

Sir Charles Trevelyan

workhouses to perform hard labour. Meanwhile, homegrown corn and other healthy food stocks continued to be transported out of Ireland for English markets, even during the unusually long and harsh winter of 1846–47, when the death toll soared.

Organisations such as the Repeal Association and the Irish Confederation urgently called for exports to be ceased and ports closed, as had happened during a less severe famine in 1782–83, but they were ignored.

The export of food from an island full of famished people is a powerfully evocative snapshot of the period, and it features in many folk songs. But to Victorian-era Whigs, this was simply the economy carrying on as normal, something they'd never interfere with. To other observers, though, contemporary and modern, this approach was tantamount to genocide. Indeed, the permanent secretary to the Treasury, Sir Charles Trevelyan – an infamous figure in the annals of Irish history, who was in charge of administering relief under Russell, such as it was – openly talked about the disaster being a heaven-sent ‘cure’ for the ills of Ireland.

“The judgement of God sent the calamity to teach the Irish a lesson, that calamity must not be too much mitigated,” Trevelyan said. In his 1848 book *The Irish Crisis*, he described the famine as “a direct stroke of an all-wise and all-merciful Providence”. He went out of his way to

obstruct relief efforts, publicly playing down the severity of the problem, and presented the Irish as an almost sub-human race, lacking in the moral fibre, honesty and industry to help themselves.

### CHARITY FROM AFAR

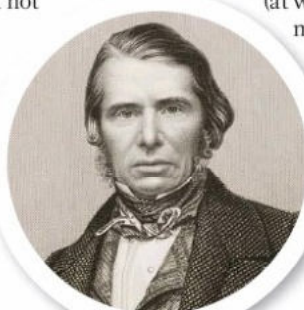
By 1848, more food – mainly Indian maize and corn – was coming into the country than was being taken out of it, but the prevailing policies of the time meant that it simply didn't reach those in the greatest need.

The burden of disaster relief was shunted back onto local authorities, communities and property owners with special Poor Law legislation, which escalated the catastrophe. Resentful of paying rates and besotted with the price of wool, many ruthless landlords evicted their poverty-stricken tenants and demolished their miserable shacks to free up the land for sheep grazing.

The sight of emaciated families wandering the roads became common. Those who could scrape together any amount of money headed for the ports, where they desperately tried to get passage on one of the dangerously overcrowded ‘coffin ships’ heading to America, Canada or Britain.

Although the response to the disaster in Westminster was at best lacklustre (at worst, it could be argued, murderously negligent) well-meaning people such as the Quakers performed heroic acts

**CRUEL VIEWS**  
Trevelyan welcomed  
the famine as a ‘cure’  
for Ireland's ills



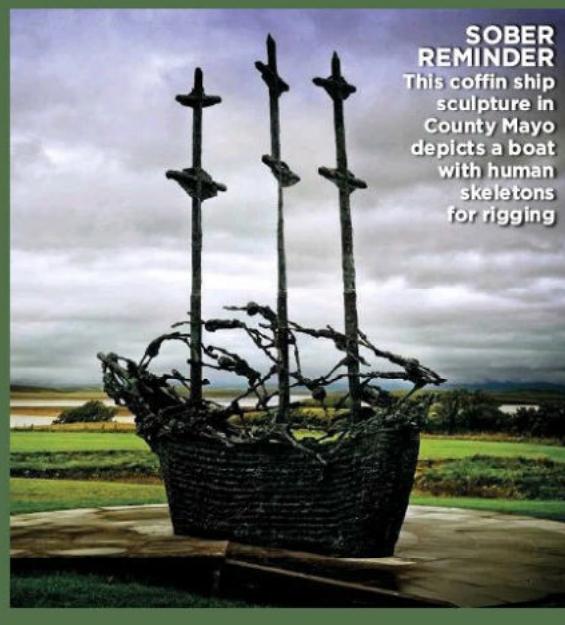
## COFFIN SHIP EXODUS

Emigration from Ireland was common before the famine, but it escalated dramatically after 1846, and the sight of impoverished people plodding to ports with whatever possessions they could carry, attempting to escape the cursed country, became common. ‘Living wakes’ were held for departing friends and family, who'd likely never be seen again if they were successful in buying or begging passage on ships heading for the US, Canada and Britain.

The government refused to assist, despite the relief this would have brought the remaining population. It was everyone for themselves. Just like modern migrant crises, murky middlemen took their cut, captains cut corners, and boats were woefully overloaded with human cargo already damaged by preceding events. Most of those who reached foreign shores did so completely destitute, and plenty never arrived at all – an estimated 20 per cent died at sea, their bodies tossed overboard. Not for nothing were some of these vessels called ‘coffin ships’.

By 1911, Ireland's population had been halved. The net result of the famine-fuelled diaspora was the proliferation of Celtic culture around the planet, which added an Irish accent to sport, politics, music and literature in myriad countries. Between 1845 and 1855, between 1.5 million and two million people left Ireland – probably forever. Prior to 1845, emigration from Ireland roughly averaged 50,000 per year. In 1846, around 100,000 departed. It peaked in 1847, when 250,000 fled the famine (215,444 to North America and British colonies, the rest to mainland Britain and elsewhere). Over the next five years, it averaged 200,000 every 12 months, before dropping. By 1855 the rate had levelled to about 70,000 per year.

Of those leaving the United Kingdom, some 69 per cent went to the US, 28 per cent to Canada, two per cent to Australia and one per cent elsewhere. However, these stats do not account for the Irish who crossed into mainland Britain because, at the time, Ireland was part of the UK, so no records exist. However, the 1851 census in Britain suggests around 400,000 Irish-born entered Britain between 1841 and 1851.



**SOBER  
REMINDER**  
This coffin ship  
sculpture in  
County Mayo  
depicts a boat  
with human  
skeletons  
for rigging



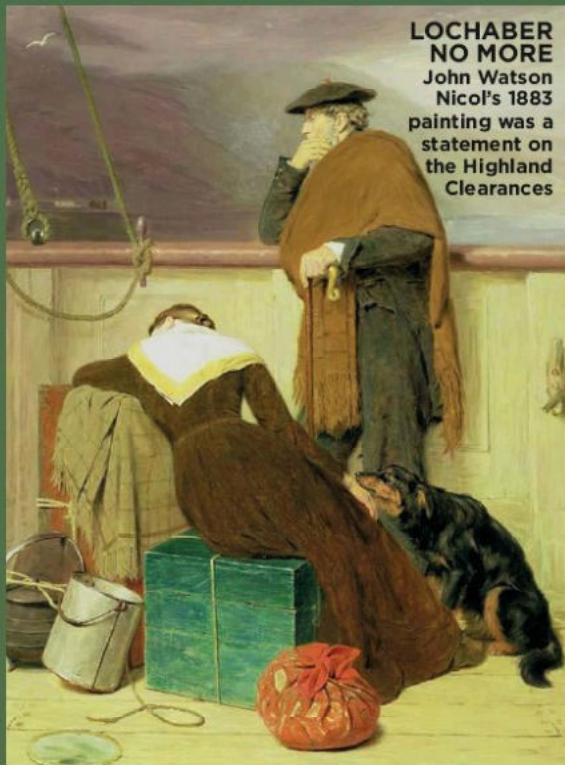
## MEANWHILE, IN THE HIGHLANDS...

The blight that caused the famine was not isolated to Ireland – although it claimed the most casualties per capita there, because the sociopolitical backdrop and the native population's overdependency on the potato created perfect storm conditions for a calamity. However, similar pre-conditions existed in the Hebrides and the Western Highlands of Scotland, where the locals had been forced into a dangerous reliance on potatoes too, and many mercenary landlords wanted to clear the countryside of the clans, crofters and cottiers getting in the way of lucrative sheep farming.

When the blight hit Scotland in the 1840s, some 200,000 people were exposed to the risk of starvation. Although there were fatalities, life-saving help was more forthcoming in the form of relief (the distribution of oats) and assisted passage overseas. Some landlords provided generous provision for their tenants, but others exploited the situation ruthlessly. Food was given in return for hard labour, and around 16,000 people were shipped off to Canada and Australia (landlords paid for some passages, and in 1852–57 a government-funded scheme operated by the Highland and Island Emigration Society sent Highlanders to the colonies). Tens of thousands more drifted down into the Scottish Lowlands, or emigrated elsewhere.

In total, around 90,000 West Highlanders were displaced within two decades, around a third of the total population. The famine was arguably the last act of the infamous Clearances, which began a century before, changing the face of the Highlands and decimating Gaelic culture.

**LOCHABER NO MORE**  
John Watson Nicol's 1883 painting was a statement on the Highland Clearances



## HARPER'S WEEKLY

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CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER

**IRISH SOS**  
The nation waves for help from America on this 1880 Harper's Weekly cover



**“The plot fizzled out after a scuffle in a widow's cabbage patch”**

of charity, operating their own soup kitchens and distributing relief. Donations also rolled in from around the world, many from surprising sources.

Queen Victoria donated £2,500 and her servants chipped in another £247. Pope Pius IX sent funds, while US President James Polk gave \$50 and congressman Abraham Lincoln \$10. Sultan Abdülmejid I of the Ottoman Empire originally offered £10,000 but – so the story goes – was asked to reduce it to £1,000 to avoid donating more than the Queen.

In 1847, the Native American Choctaw Nation sent a contribution, despite having faced starvation just 16 years earlier, after being forced along the Trail of Tears, and the island of Barbados gave £2,000. Convicts on the prison ship *Warrior*, docked in Woolwich, scraped together 17 shillings. Even the journalists of *Punch* magazine (a publication that

happily described the Irish as “manifestly between the Gorilla and the Negro”) were moved to donate £50.

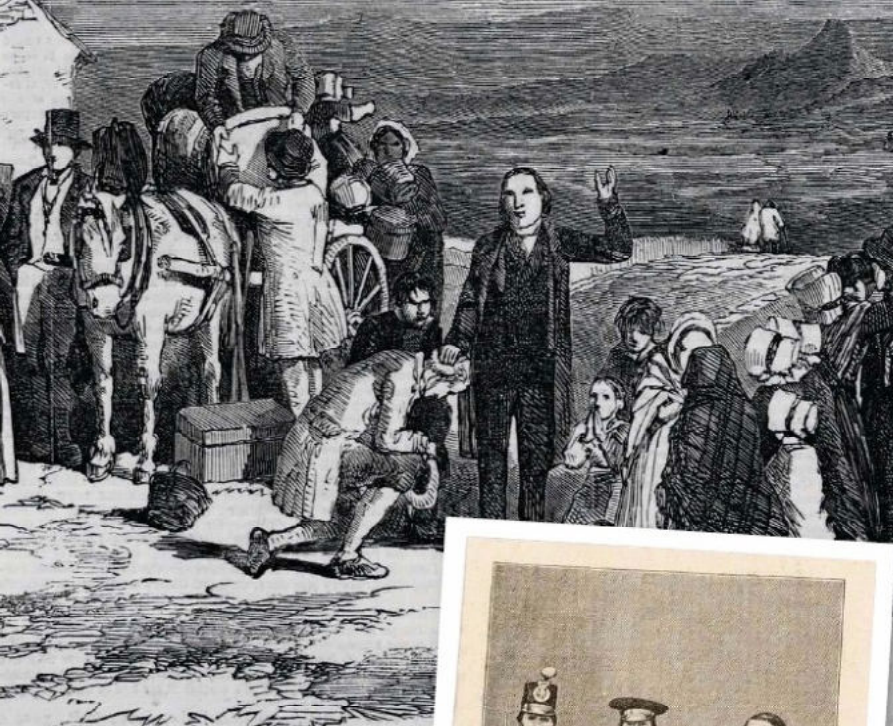
### SEEDING INSURRECTION

Throughout 1848 Europe was ablaze with anti-authoritarian uprisings, and unsurprisingly such voices were heard in Ireland too – perhaps all the louder because of the unfolding crisis. One of the most vocal critics of British rule in general, and the government's shameful response to the famine specifically, was the political journalist John Mitchel, who wrote: “The Almighty, indeed, sent the potato blight, but the English created the famine”. After agitating for action against injustices he was convicted of ‘treason felony’ and transported first to Bermuda, then Tasmania.

Another group – known as the Young Irelanders, and led by William Smith O'Brien, Thomas Francis Meagher and



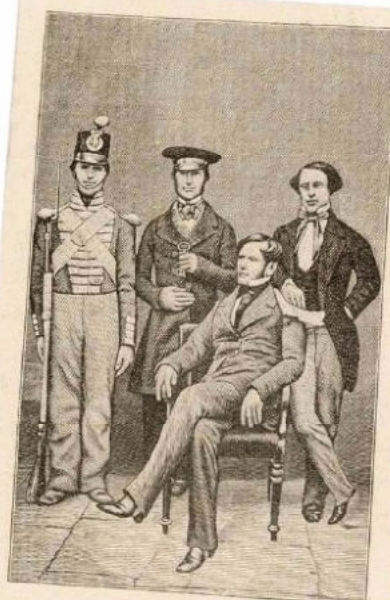
**FAREWELL, MOTHERLAND**  
A priest blesses a family as they prepare to leave Ireland for good, as so many did as a result of the famine



Richard O'Gorman – plotted a rebellion against British rule, which briefly sparked into action in July 1848. Sufficient muscle for a successful insurrection was never going to be found during a time of such desperate deprivation, when most people were fighting for survival, and the plot fizzled out after a scuffle in a widow's cabbage patch in Tipperary, resulting in the transportation to Australia of its leaders.

While it failed to come to anything, many of the men involved in the Young Irelander Rebellion went on to be influential in the evolution of the modern nationalist movement, including the creation of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, which was behind the Easter Rising in 1916, and part of the evolution of Sinn Féin and the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

On the upside, Irish agricultural practices were vastly improved post-famine, with bigger plots and better land management, and the hated Corn Laws had been killed off for the whole of Britain. But Ireland had lost an eighth of its people to starvation and disease, and the same again to emigration, which continued apace well into the



SMITH O'BRIEN AND MEAGHER IN GAOL.  
*Photograph lent by Mr. Edward French.*

**IN A SPOT OF BOTHER**  
Young Irelanders O'Brien and Meagher look relaxed under guard

20th century, effectively halving the population and exporting anti-British sentiment to the New World. The Great Hunger, and Westminster's hand in it, would never be forgotten. ☹

## GET HOOKED

### EXPERIENCE

Visit the replica famine-era boat *Dunbrody* in New Ross for an insight into conditions on a good ship (as opposed to a coffin ship) en route to America. [www.dunbrody.com](http://www.dunbrody.com)

# HUNGER SHAMES

In a decade, the famine killed an eighth of Ireland's population, one of the biggest death tolls per capita ever recorded for such an event. As with almost all famines, the disaster could have largely been avoided if the political will had existed to intervene with effective policies and adequate relief.

## GREAT FAMINE, BRITISH INDIA, 1876-78

Around 5.5 million people died during a disaster that directly echoed events in Ireland, revealing a lack of learning or attitude change by British colonial authorities. The famine conditions, created by a drought, were amplified by a laissez-faire approach to relief and the continued export of grain. Malaria subsequently killed many hunger-weakened people. Long-term ramifications included an increase in anti-British feeling and an escalated evolution of pro-independence movements.

## PERSIAN FAMINE, 1917-19

Famine conditions, created by exceptionally light snowfall and a resulting drought, were significantly worsened by the large-scale requisitioning of grain supplies and transport animals by the Russian and British armies occupying Iran during World War I. Mass starvation, violence and disease led to the deaths of around two million people, roughly a fifth of the population.

## THE HOLODOMOR, UKRAINE, 1932-33

This man-made crisis in Soviet Ukraine evolved from Stalinist policies – farm collectivisation, forced production of unfamiliar crops, poor management, compulsory requisitioning of produce and rejection of outside aid. Between three million and ten million are thought to have died, and cannibalism was allegedly common. Part of the wider Soviet famine of 1932-33, it's commonly described either as a 'terror famine' or genocide, intended to subdue independence movements.

## GREAT CHINESE FAMINE, 1959-61

This catastrophe was blamed on the Great Leap Forward (1958-62), Chairman Mao's attempt to rapidly transform China into a modern industrial country. Suggested death tolls range from 18 million to 55.6 million, the result of a sudden drop in grain production due to farm collectivisation, combined with ill-advised new agricultural policies and a drought.

## SOMALIA, 2011

► Triggered by severe drought, dramatic price increases and conflict, the famine in civil war-stricken Somalia was exacerbated by security concerns overriding charity objectives. One of the warring parties, Al-Shabaab, was labelled a terrorist group by the US, and aid falling into their hands was considered a criminal matter, making relief provision extremely difficult. Nearly 260,000 people died, half under the age of five.

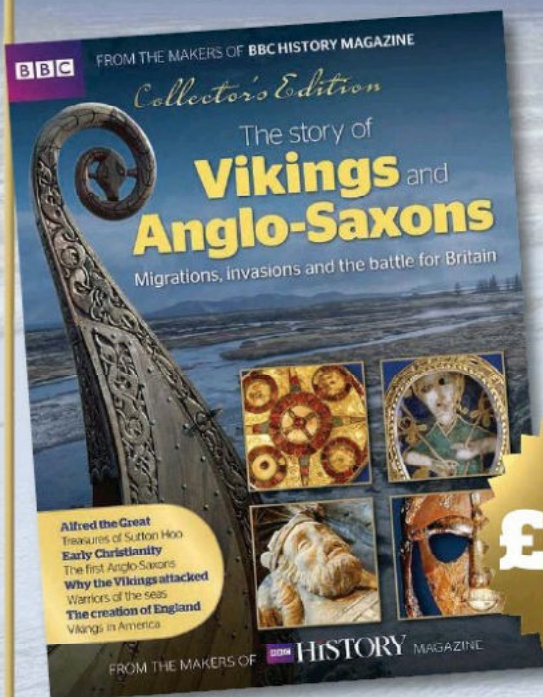




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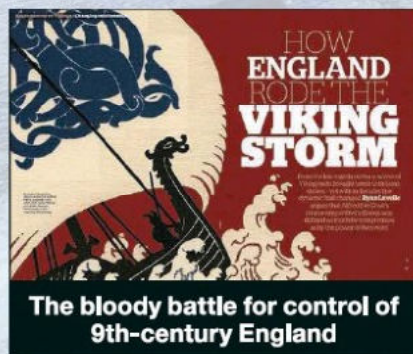
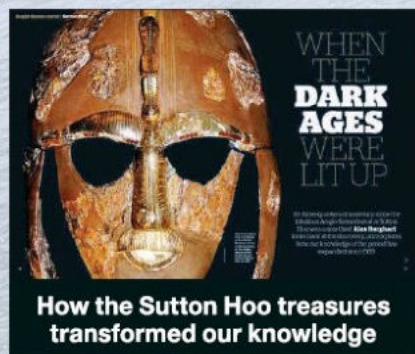


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**STRIKING  
BEAUTY**  
Lettice was  
described as  
one of the best-  
looking ladies in  
Elizabeth's circle

# ELIZABETH'S LOVE RIVAL

Lettice Knollys was a darling of the Elizabethan court – until she snatched her Queen's sweetheart for herself. As **Nicola Tallis** reveals, hell hath no fury like a monarch scorned...



**Y**ou may not know the name Lettice Knollys, but at one time she was one of the most important members of Elizabeth I's court.

Grandniece of Anne Boleyn – and thus kin to the Queen herself – she was a woman of extraordinary beauty, passion and wit. Yet in 1579, she was cast out of Elizabeth's good graces and banished from the palace. Her crime? She had secretly married the one man in England who was closest to the Queen's heart, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. Lettice had risked her liege's enmity for love, and she paid the price. Later in her tumultuous life she would discover the taint of treason, and watch those closest to her succumb to the headsman's axe – all the while remaining subject to Elizabeth's bitter hatred.

### BOUND BY BLOOD

Lettice Knollys was born on 6 November 1543, the third child of Francis Knollys by his wife Katherine Carey. Though she had little to boast of on her father's side, through her mother Lettice had inherited prestigious connections. Katherine Carey purported to be the daughter of William Carey and Mary

Boleyn, the sister of Henry VIII's infamous second wife Anne – Elizabeth I's mother. It is just possible, however, that Katherine was not William Carey's daughter at all, but the result of Mary Boleyn's affair with Henry VIII. Though by no means conclusive, the evidence is suggestive. If it's true, Lettice was the King's illegitimate granddaughter, making her closer in blood to Elizabeth I than either she or her family could openly acknowledge.

Lettice was raised at Greys Court in the heart of the Oxfordshire countryside, and was fortunate enough to be born to parents who were both loving and interested in the welfare of their children. The Knollys family was large – Lettice was one of 16 children, although not all of them survived infancy. She was close to her siblings, and remained so for the rest of her life. The politics and policies of the country would, however, have a profound impact upon their happy family life.

When Mary I became queen in 1553, she immediately took steps to undo the

religious policies that had begun when Henry VIII broke from the Catholic Church in Rome – policies which had, as time progressed, begun to turn England into a Protestant nation. Mary was determined to return England to Catholicism, and for Protestant families such as Lettice's this signalled disaster. It was with this in

mind that her parents decided to abandon their home and flee to Europe.

Taking five of their children with them, the couple settled in Frankfurt. The names of the five children who joined them in exile are unknown, but it is unlikely that Lettice was one of them. More probable is that she remained in England, perhaps as a member of the household of her kinswoman, the Lady Elizabeth. Lettice's parents would not remain abroad for long, however, for in November

1558 Mary I died and, at the age of 25, Elizabeth came to the throne. Her accession was met with great rejoicing across the country.

Lettice had just turned 15. She revelled in Elizabeth's success, and her parents

**“She may have been Henry VIII's illegitimate grand-daughter”**

### HIDDEN ROYAL

Lettice's parents Sir Francis Knollys and Katherine Carey; Carey was born of Mary Boleyn, but who was *her* father? Some say it was Henry VIII, placing Lettice closer to the throne than she knew



### COUNTRY IDYLL

Elizabeth's future love rival grew up in this suitably regal manor in Oxfordshire







**FAST FRIENDS**  
Elizabeth in her coronation robes; the new Queen kept Lettice close early in her reign, only letting her depart court after her friend married Walter Devereux, Earl of Essex (inset)

and siblings were immediately able to return to England to join her. The family was now fortunate enough to be recipient of the Queen's favour, and Lettice was appointed a member of Elizabeth's household. She was a favourite of the Queen's, and remained in her service until her marriage to Walter Devereux, Viscount Hereford. This probably took place in 1561, after which Lettice bid farewell to the bright lights of the court in favour of a life of domesticity in rural Staffordshire.

She took up residence at Chartley, the attractive moated manor house not far from Stafford that was her husband's main residence, and it was here that she would spend much of her time for the next decade and beyond.

Lettice provided her husband with four surviving children: two boys and two girls, on whom she doted. Many of her letters are addressed to her eldest son, Robert, and demonstrate the possessive love that she felt for him.

In 1573, Lettice's husband Walter, now Earl of Essex, sailed for Ireland in an attempt to colonise Ulster. It was

a campaign doomed to failure and left him in crippling debt. During his absence Lettice busied herself with caring for her children, as well as attending court. She also spent time with her friends, including the Queen's favourite, the Earl of Leicester. Rumours would later circulate that the two were conducting an illicit affair, but this is unlikely to have been true.

### TROUBLE BREWS

In late 1575, Lettice's husband returned home from Ireland, but his reunion with his family was short-lived. Having secured a promise from the Queen to lend him more money, in July 1576 Walter left for Ireland once more. Soon after his arrival he fell sick – an illness from which he would never recover. On 22 September, Walter died of dysentery. Lettice was now a widow, left with four young children. Under the terms of Walter's will, her daughters and youngest son became the wards of the Earl of Huntingdon, whilst her eldest son, Robert, joined

## WHO WAS WHO AT THE ELIZABETHAN COURT

### WILLIAM CECIL, BARON BURGHLEY (1520-1598)

Nicknamed the Queen's 'spirit'. William Cecil was Elizabeth's chief advisor. By the Queen's side from the moment of her accession until his death, Cecil was a man of great ability, and the Queen relied heavily on his judgement. She was also fond of him, on one occasion feeding him soup in his sickbed.

### KATE ASHLEY (c1502-1565)

Kate Ashley became Elizabeth's governess in 1537, and remained with her for the rest of her life. She was the woman closest to the Queen, and held the prestigious – not to mention influential – post of Chief Lady of the Bedchamber. Elizabeth affectionately referred to her as 'Kat'.

### SIR FRANCIS WALSHINGHAM (c1532-1590)

Known as the Queen's spymaster, Sir Francis Walsingham was one of the most important men at Elizabeth's court. He was instrumental in the fall of Mary, Queen of Scots, as it was through his network of spies that the Throckmorton and Babington Plots – both of which aimed to depose and kill Elizabeth in favour of Mary – were discovered.

### BESS OF HARDWICK, COUNTESS OF SHREWSBURY (c1527-1608)

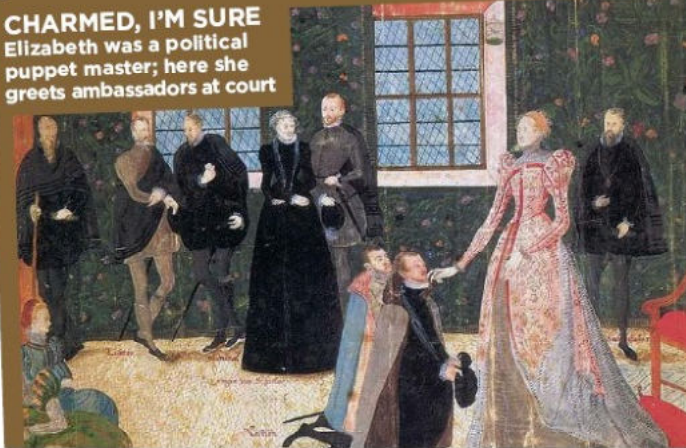
Bess of Hardwick was both a good friend of Elizabeth's and one of the wealthiest women in England. She spent much of her time on her estates in Derbyshire, and her fourth husband acted as custodian to Mary, Queen of Scots. Her friendship with Elizabeth was tested in 1574 when it emerged that Bess had married her daughter to the son of Margaret Douglas, the Queen's cousin. Elizabeth was furious that her consent had not been sought, but Bess eventually emerged unscathed.

### ROBERT DEVEREUX, SECOND EARL OF ESSEX AND LETTICE'S ELDEST SON (c1565-1601)

Arriving at court in the 1580s, Robert Devereux became one of the Queen's favourites in spite of being Lettice's eldest son. He flattered Elizabeth and made her feel young, and she enjoyed dancing and playing cards with him. Ultimately, however, Essex's petulant nature and arrogance lost him the Queen's favour, and he met his end on the executioner's block.

### CHARMED, I'M SURE

Elizabeth was a political puppet master; here she greets ambassadors at court

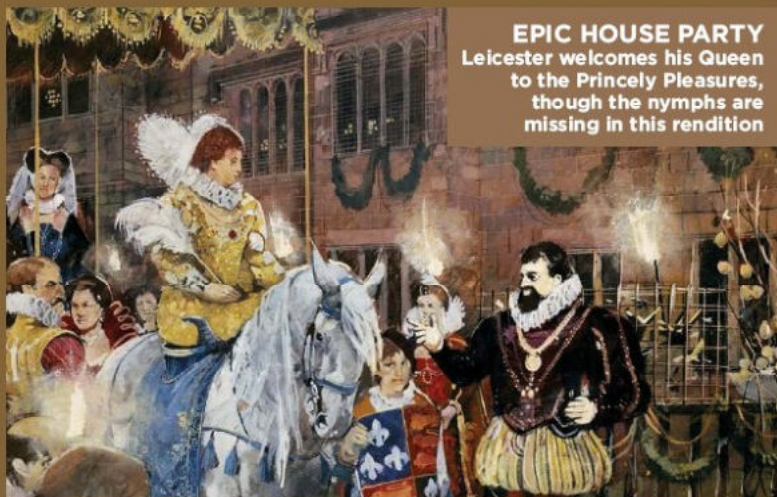




## DUDLEY'S LAST GRAND GESTURE

Queen Elizabeth travelled regularly on progresses (tours) of her kingdom, giving her subjects the chance to see their monarch. In 1575, her progress took her to Kenilworth Castle, the Warwickshire home of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. Leicester had spent much time and money on a lavish programme of entertainments in an attempt to dazzle the Queen, and the result was spectacular. Leicester had chosen mythology as the theme of the visit, and upon arrival at Kenilworth the Queen was greeted by 'the Lady of the

Lake with two nymphs'. She was lodged in specially prepared apartments, and Leicester had also created a new garden for the Queen's enjoyment. For 19 days, Elizabeth was treated to an array of feasts, masques, hunts and fireworks - there was even an Italian acrobat. It was a magnificent display, one that has been remembered by history as the Princely Pleasures, but when Elizabeth departed Leicester must have realised that she would never be his bride.



**EPIC HOUSE PARTY**  
Leicester welcomes his Queen to the Princely Pleasures, though the nymphs are missing in this rendition



**UNCANNY LIKENESS**  
Lettice not only bore a close resemblance to the Queen, she was also ten years younger, fuelling Elizabeth's resentment

threatened with the Tower), but it was not long before he was restored to his former favour; for Lettice, the outcome was worse. A dramatic confrontation with the Queen ensued, during which Elizabeth told her kinswoman in no uncertain terms that she was no longer welcome: Lettice was banished. From now on she would be forced to live in the shadows, no longer the Queen's beloved kinswoman, but instead her rival.

### LIFE IN THE MARGINS

Lettice remained on the sidelines for the next two decades, contenting herself with her domestic arrangements. In June 1581, she bore Leicester a son, also named Robert, but both parents were distraught when the child died just after his third birthday. She also travelled with her husband, on one occasion holidaying with him at Kenilworth Castle.

By 1588, Leicester's health had begun to decline dramatically. Left exhausted by a campaign to the Netherlands aimed at crushing the Spanish forces there, it was clear that he needed rest. It was with this in mind that at the end of the summer of 1588, the Earl set out for Buxton in order to take the medicinal waters. Lettice accompanied her husband, but the couple only made it as far as Cornbury Park in Oxfordshire >

“They knew that the Queen was unlikely to give her royal consent”

were determined to be together. Just a handful of witnesses were present, all of whom were family or close friends. Now man and wife, their relationships with the Queen would be permanently changed.

The newlyweds had just 10 months to enjoy their marriage in peace before news of their secret wedding reached the Queen. Her reaction was predictable. The Earl of Leicester was told to absent himself from court (after being

< the household of Lord Burghley. Lettice now had herself to consider.

It was almost certainly at some time in 1577 that Lettice began a romantic relationship with Leicester. Since the death of his first wife in 1560, he had been pursuing the Queen's hand in marriage, but his efforts had failed to bear fruit. Nevertheless, the Queen was still fiercely protective of her favourite, and had fallen into a jealous rage following a report in 1565 that he had flirted with Lettice, who was then heavily pregnant. By 1577, however, whatever sparks of attraction there were between Leicester and Lettice had developed into something more serious. By the beginning of 1578 - if not before - they had resolved to marry.

They did so on the morning of 21 September 1578, in a secret ceremony at the Earl's house in Wanstead. Secrecy was vital, for the couple knew that the Queen was unlikely to give her royal consent to their marriage, and they



## INDEPENDENT WOMAN

Elizabeth came under intense pressure to marry but, for all the efforts of her councillors and suitors, she refused to take a husband

# THE QUEEN'S ADMIRERS

At the time of her accession Elizabeth was unmarried and, at 25 years old, the most eligible young woman in Europe. Of the host of suitors who pressed for her hand in the course of her reign, these four are among the most famous



### ROBERT DUDLEY, EARL OF LEICESTER

Robert Dudley was arguably the only man Elizabeth ever truly loved, and for over a decade he attempted to persuade her to marry him. His efforts would prove futile, but the relationship between the pair attracted scandalous gossip.



### ERIC XIV OF SWEDEN

Eric pursued Elizabeth for several years, sending her costly gifts and letters containing declarations of love. When he finally expressed an intention to visit England, Elizabeth sent him a firm letter that expressed regret that she did not share his feelings.



### ARCHDUKE CHARLES OF STYRIA

Son of the Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand I, Charles was a Catholic. It was for this reason that the match between Charles and Elizabeth was eventually abandoned, as Elizabeth was a staunch Protestant.



### FRANÇOIS, DUC D'ANJOU

Nicknamed the Queen's 'frog', Frenchman François – 22 years her junior – was the only one Elizabeth's foreign suitors who travelled to England to court her. Though Elizabeth was fond of him, their potential match was not popular, and in 1581 he left England for good.



when Leicester took to his bed. On 4 September he died there. Lettice was left bereft, but once again realised that she had no choice but to move on.

Just ten months after Leicester's death, Lettice married for the third time. This time her groom was not an earl, but a former member of her late husband's household: Sir Christopher Blount.

Blount was an unusual choice, because unlike Lettice and her family, he was a Catholic. He had also almost certainly worked as a double agent for Sir Francis Walsingham in securing the fall of Mary, Queen of Scots. Nevertheless, he and Lettice seem to have been genuinely happy together, and as time passed Blount proved himself to be a loyal stepfather, particularly to Lettice's son by Walter Devereux, Robert, Earl of Essex.

## NO LOVE LOST

Yet Leicester's death did nothing to heal the rift between Lettice and the Queen. Still, she did not give up hope. In December 1597, through the auspices of the Earl of Essex, who had now stepped into Leicester's shoes as the Queen's favourite, Elizabeth finally agreed to meet her kinswoman. The following February, the women came face to face for the first time in nearly two decades. The meeting was short but cordial, and Lettice left court full of optimism. But it was soon to be cruelly shattered, when Elizabeth made it clear that her enmity towards Lettice had not been forgotten. They would never meet again.



**SO LONG, SWEET ROBIN**  
Robert Devereux ('Sweet Robin' to his mum) gained favour with Elizabeth, but ended up on the block after a botched rebellion

In February 1601, the Earl of Essex led a disastrous rebellion in an attempt to topple the Queen's government. Though Lettice was not involved, the rebellion had tragic consequences for her family. Not only was her son the leader, but her husband Christopher Blount was one of the key conspirators. Both were executed, leaving Lettice widowed for a third time. On this occasion she did not remarry.

The rivalry between Lettice and the Queen only came to an end when Elizabeth died on 24 March 1603. The new king, James I & VI, bore Lettice none of the enmity of her predecessor, and though she did not return to court, her family were able to revel in the favour that the Stuart king showed them. For Lettice, her days were now spent in peaceful domesticity at her home at Drayton Bassett, Staffordshire. Here she

was able to enjoy the company of her numerous grandchildren away from the intrigues of the court.

In November 1634, she reached her 91st birthday, but it soon became apparent that she would not live to see another. She died on Christmas Day. At her own request she was laid to rest beside her second husband, the Earl of Leicester, in St Mary's Church in Warwick. The double tomb they share survives, a tangible reminder of the reason that Lettice became Elizabeth's rival. ☹

## GET HOOKED

### READ

*Elizabeth's Rival: The Tumultuous Tale of Lettice Knollys, Countess of Leicester* by Nicola Tallis is out now in hardback, priced £20 (Michael O'Mara Books)



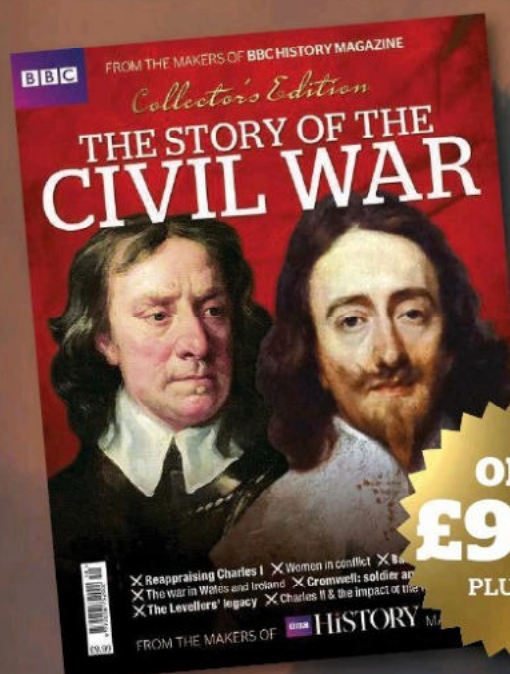
**LASTING DEVOTION**  
Of all her husbands, Lettice chose to be entombed with Leicester; they lie side by side in St Mary's Church in Warwick



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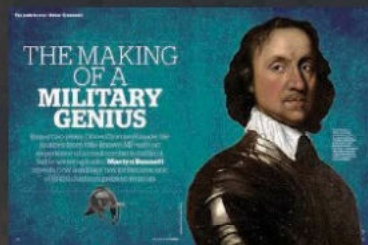
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# 1932 PICASSO'S YEAR OF WONDERS

Inspired by a passionate affair with a younger mistress, 1932 would become Picasso's *annus mirabilis*. **Jonny Wilkes** explores the desire and heartache behind his prolific year

**W**hen Pablo Picasso turned 50 on 25 October 1931, his reputation as an artist of global influence had already been established for decades. His Blue Period had come as a young man barely out of his teens, and he quickly followed it with his Rose Period and the creation of Cubism. The Spaniard, unlike other greats such as Van Gogh, was no penniless painter

unappreciated in his own lifetime; the artistic community lionised him, and high-price sales of his pieces brought him fabulous wealth and fame.

His fifties were not going to slow him down. In fact, 1932 proved to be a remarkably fertile year for Picasso, during which he dashed out some of his most iconic canvases in a matter of days. At the same time, his professional and private lives were being torn in different directions by contrasting circumstances

and ideals. But rather than divide him, they seemed to create a precarious harmony – for those 12 months, at least – inspiring what would become known as his ‘year of wonders’.

This balance can best be seen in Picasso's relationships. On one side was his Russian wife, Olga, and 10-year-old son Paulo, while on the other was his blonde French mistress, 28 years his junior, named Marie-Thérèse Walter. As Picasso saw in the new year at the family home, he could not help his thoughts from straying to his clandestine affair.

## ARTIST AND HIS MUSE

◀ Pablo Picasso with one of his 1932 paintings of Marie-Thérèse Walter, the much-younger woman with whom he had been having an affair since 1927. Suggestively, his portrait of his wife, Olga, is seen leaning against the wall

## GIRL BEFORE A MIRROR

▶ Marie-Thérèse became Picasso's favourite subject, and inspired him to use intense colours and flowing lines, giving his work from 1932 a greater sensuality



Girl before a Mirror, 1932/Pablo Picasso/The Museum of Modern Art, New York/Gift of Mrs. Simon Guggenheim 1937/© Succession Picasso/DACS London, 2017

## EXTRAMARITAL MUSE

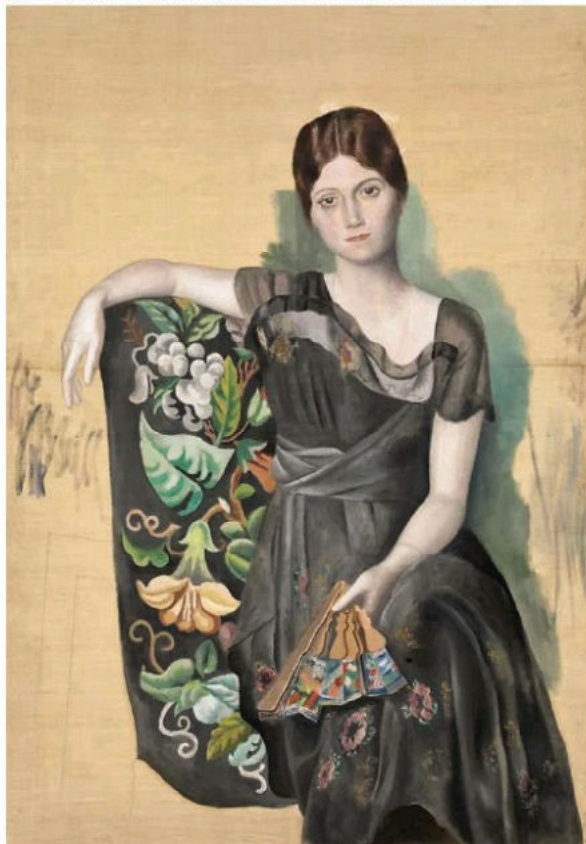
Picasso's marriage had deteriorated during the 1920s. He had met Olga Khokhlova in 1917, during a production for the Ballets Russes (she was a ballerina, he was the set and costume designer). They married the following year, moved into a grand apartment in Paris at 23 Rue La Boétie, and soon became a feature in high society, attending formal dinners and premieres in the company of the elite.

To Picasso, Olga and his swanky home embodied a stifling bourgeois lifestyle, which he both enjoyed and believed clashed with his desire for a simpler and more bohemian existence. Part of Picasso wanted to reconnect with the world he knew as a young artist, living broke in Montmartre.

Marie-Thérèse offered Picasso something much more passionate and, as his muse, more inspiring. Their affair had begun in 1927, when she was 17 years old; he had bumped into her outside the Galeries Lafayette department store on Boulevard



Portrait of Olga in an Armchair, 1918/Pablo Picasso/Musée National Picasso, Paris/© Succession Picasso/DACS London, 2017



### OLGA

► In 1918, Picasso married Russian ballerina Olga Khokhlova and painted this portrait, showing her as demure and sophisticated. Moving away from Cubism, he favoured a neoclassical style in the wake of World War I

© Musée National Picasso, Paris



### MARIE-THÉRÈSE

▲ When Picasso met the 17-year-old in 1927, his infatuation was immediate. "You have an interesting face," he allegedly said. "I would like to do a portrait of you"

Nude, Green Leaves and Bust, 1932/Pablo Picasso/Private Collection/© Succession Picasso/DACS London, 2017



### NUDE, GREEN LEAVES AND BUST

▲ It took just five days for Picasso to complete this trio of vibrant paintings of Marie-Thérèse. This one sold for \$106.5 million in 2010

Nude in a Black Armchair, 1932/Pablo Picasso/Private Collection, USA/© Succession Picasso/DACS London, 2017



### NUDE IN A BLACK ARMCHAIR

▲ Art dealer Daniel-Henry Kahnweiler hailed this and 'Nude, Green Leaves and Bust' as the "greatest, most moving" of Picasso's works



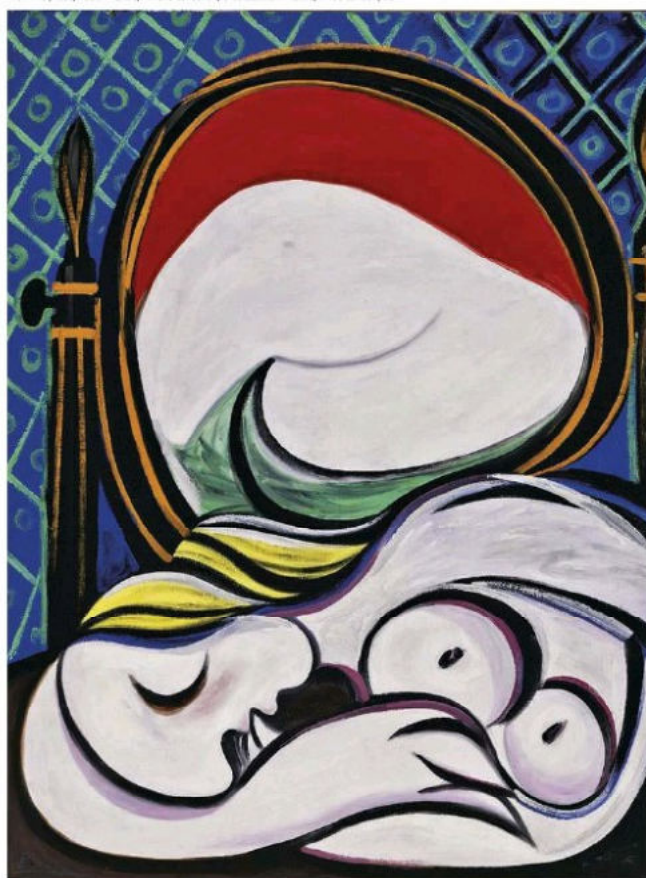
## FAMILY HOLIDAY

In the summer of 1932, Picasso went to the Normandy coast with Olga and their son Paulo



# “The vibrant colours, flowing lines and sensuality of these paintings speak volumes about Picasso and Marie-Thérèse’s relationship”

The Mirror, 1932/Pablo Picasso/Private Collection/© Succession Picasso/DACS London, 2017



## THE MIRROR

▲ The three nudes were displayed together at the retrospective in Paris – giving clues to the secret woman in Picasso's life

Haussmann in Paris. They managed to keep their relationship a secret for years, though throughout Picasso used Marie-Thérèse as a subject for many of his works, including a trio of paintings in January 1932 – ‘Rest’, ‘Sleep’ and the highly erotic ‘The Dream’. The latter is said to have been completed in a single afternoon.

The vibrant colours, flowing lines and sensuality of these paintings speak volumes about Picasso and Marie-Thérèse’s relationship, no matter how well they hid their illicit liaisons. Whatever Olga knew of their affair, she remained with Picasso until 1935 – when she learnt that Marie-Thérèse was pregnant with his child.

## STEALING A MARCH

In the first half of March, Picasso was particularly prolific, finishing seven paintings later described by art historian Alfred H Barr as “unlike anything he had done before”. Three of them – ‘Nude, Green Leaves and Bust’, ‘Nude in a Black Armchair’ and ‘The Mirror’ – took just five days; all show Marie-Thérèse draping her naked body across the bottom of the canvas. Then, only two days later, he put the finishing strokes on yet another masterpiece, ‘Girl Before a Mirror’.

Despite the eroticism of his art, Picasso rarely worked with a live

model in his studio, not even his darling Marie-Thérèse. In late March, he had another burst of creativity, but the six abstracted naked figures he created were much more explicit – so much so that his art dealer, Paul Rosenberg, would not display them.

Earlier in his career, Picasso had painted a portrait of Olga. It was far from the highly charged and sexual depictions of Marie-Thérèse, a neoclassical painting that shows his wife as refined and almost austere.

It was Rosenberg who rented and paid for the apartment on Rue La Boétie for Picasso and Olga after they married, as he owned a gallery next door. From there, he helped sell Picasso’s work for staggering prices; in February, ‘La Coiffure’ had fetched 56,000 francs. The family home, however, continued to rankle with Picasso. As Olga had – according to artist and photographer Brassai – turned the apartment into “one of the centres of society life”, Picasso set up a studio in the rooms above, a studio that Olga would not enter. Filled with art supplies and piles of books, Brassai called this refuge “an apartment turned pigsty”.

## CONFLICTING DESIRES

Yet Picasso’s fame and bourgeois life still pulled against his longing for a quieter, more private dwelling, leading him to split his time between Paris and Boisgeloup, the country chateau he had bought in 1930. Olga greatly enjoyed entertaining family and friends there, while Picasso frequently made the 40-mile trip without his family in search of solitude – or to be with Marie-Thérèse. In the converted stables, he found a new kind of space for sculpting, which he did at night by the light of oil lamps. As with his paintings, his mistress provided the inspiration for a series of plaster heads and busts.

For Picasso, 1932 was not only for new creations, but a chance to reflect on his career and ensure his legacy. Looking back nearly 40 years, he compiled and published, in collaboration with art writer and critic Christian Zervos, a catalogue raisonné – a listing of all the pieces he created between 1895 and 1906. It turned out to be the first of 33 volumes.

Simultaneously, a group of French art dealers organised a retrospective, the first such exhibition of Picasso’s art. But rather than solely looking back over his past glories, as with





# THE RESCUE

▲ The tipped-back head suggested sleep in 'Nude in a Black Armchair', but in this November painting it seems to represent death

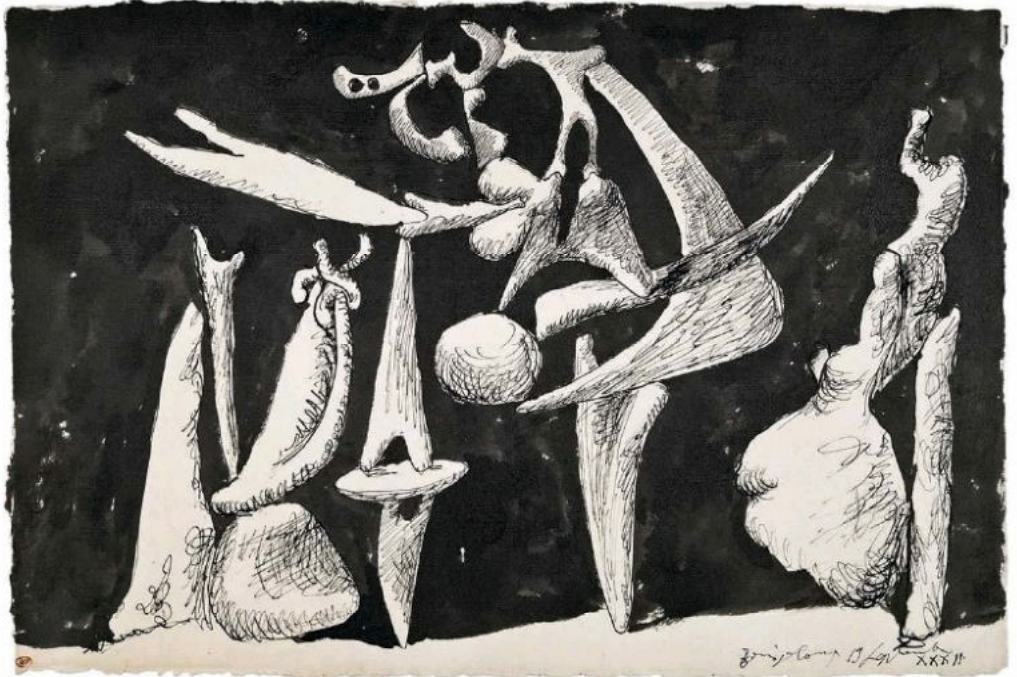


## THE CRUCIFIXION

► The death of Jesus Christ was a subject that Picasso returned to several times during his career – not necessarily for any religious meaning, but as an expression of pain and suffering

## PARIS RETROSPECTIVE

▼ The widely reviewed exhibition caused a sensation, though not many paintings were actually sold



## “Sensuality and soft colours were replaced by a more sombre, troubled mood”

Nude Woman in a Red Armchair, 1932/Pablo Picasso/Tate. Purchased 1953/© Succession Picasso/DACS London, 2017



## NUDE WOMAN IN A RED ARMCHAIR

▲ Picasso dated this voluptuous painting of Marie-Thérèse as 27 July 1932 precisely, suggesting that he completed it in one day

◀ the catalogue, he wanted it to demonstrate his ongoing relevance to art in the 20th century, and so look to the future. Indeed, he produced many of his paintings that year especially for the retrospective, which had the added effect of giving visitors a glimpse into his affair.

As Picasso announced around the time of the exhibition's opening at the Galeries Georges Petit in Paris, “Painting is just another way of keeping a diary” – and Marie-Thérèse had been taking up many of his days.

## DESCENT TO DESPAIR

With the retrospective underway, and proving a success, Picasso felt a greater sense of artistic freedom. When he went to Normandy with his family, he completed a series of canvases showing strangely formed holidaymakers on the beach. Then, after following the retrospective to the Kunsthau art museum in Zurich, he started on a collection of black-and-white drawings of Christ's crucifixion. Among those who visited the exhibition in Switzerland was German artist Paul Klee. “All in all: [Picasso is] the painter of today,” Klee wrote to his wife. Psychiatrist Carl Jung, on the other hand, expressed concerns for Picasso's mental health.

By the end of 1932, Picasso's work became darker, and focused more on subjects such as death and rape. Again, this came down to the influence of his muse, as Marie-Thérèse had contracted a viral infection after swimming in the River Marne and lost most of her hair. The year ended with Picasso still unable to stop his thoughts straying to his lover, but the sensuality, coyness and soft, pastel colours from the likes of ‘Nude Woman in a Red Armchair’ – painted in July – had been replaced by severe, greyer tones, and a more sombre, troubled mood.

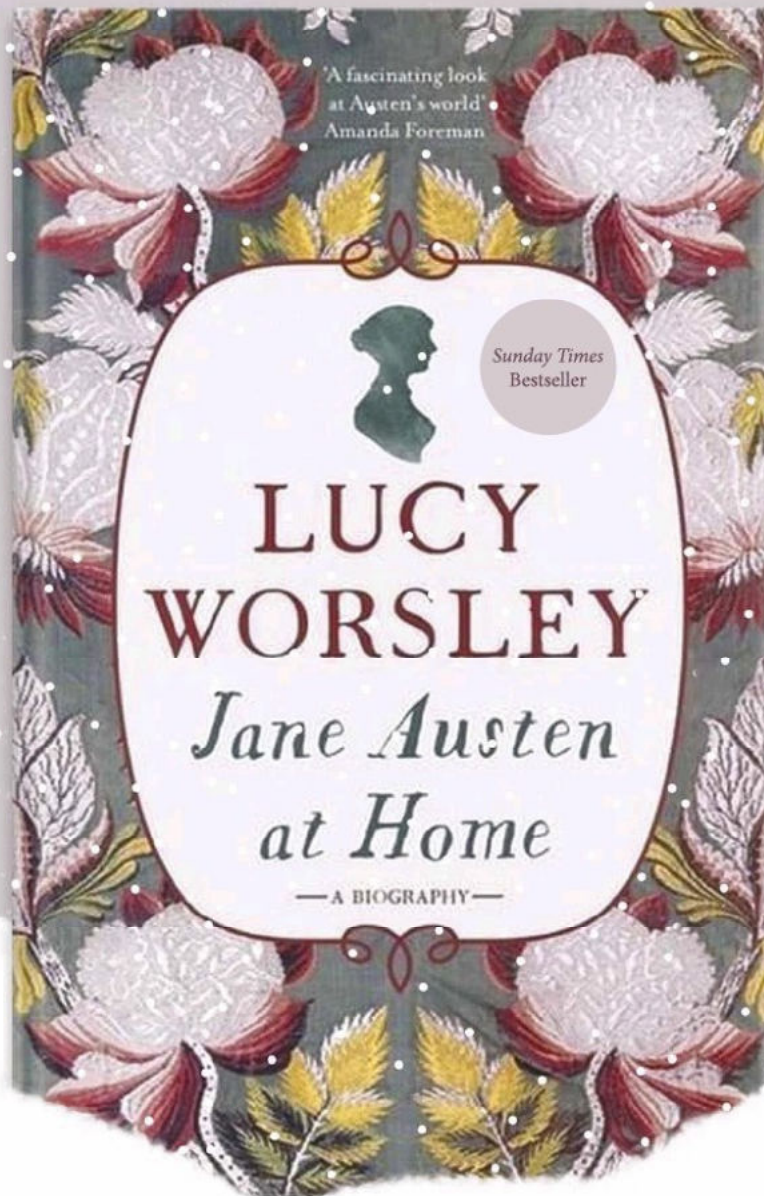
For the next 40 years, Picasso continued innovating, defying categorisation and producing work with extraordinary abundance. His remarkable career started before he had reached 10 years old and continued right up until his death at 91, yet 1932 – the subject of a major new exhibition at the Tate Modern in London – still stands out as wondrous. ☉

## GET HOOKED

## EXHIBITION

The EY Exhibition: Picasso 1932 – Love, Fame, Tragedy runs at the Tate Modern in London from 8 March to 9 September. With more than 100 of Picasso's works, the exhibition will explore the artist's extraordinary year





‘A beautifully nuanced exploration of  
gender, creativity, and domesticity’

AMANDA FOREMAN

‘This is my kind of history: carefully  
researched but so vivid’

ANTONIA FRASER



# Q&A

## YOU ASK, WE ANSWER



**TRIUMPHANT TRICOLORE**  
This illustration graced the song sheet for popular suffrage anthem *The March of the Women*, penned by Ethel Smyth in 1911



# 20

The number of years between the first female astronaut, Valentina Tereshkova of the USSR (1963) and the US sending its first woman into space, Sally Ride (1983)

## WHY WERE THE SUFFRAGETTE COLOURS CHOSEN?



It is 100 years since women in Britain were finally granted the right to vote – as long they were over 30 and met some other criteria – but it was a decade prior that the suffragettes adopted their iconic colours. Purple, white and green became the tricolore of choice for the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), with the hope

they would unite those attending a mass demonstration in London's Hyde Park on 21 June 1908. It turned out to be a wise idea to have a semblance of uniform as some 500,000 people from all over Britain showed up. And when they went home, they took the WSPU colours with them.

Soon they were being used on all manner of items, from rosettes

and sashes to flags, banners, postcards and posters. Shops got in on the act and put purple, white and green on handbags, shoes, toilet soap and underwear. Wealthier women could show their support through their jewellery, by wearing amethysts, pearls, peridots or emeralds.

In the weekly newspaper *Votes for Women*, co-editor Emmeline

Pethick-Lawrence explained the symbolism of the colours.

"Purple, as everyone knows, is the royal colour. It stands for the royal blood that flows in the veins of every suffragette, the instinct of freedom and dignity ... White stands for purity in private and public life ... Green is the colour of hope and the emblem of spring."

GETTY





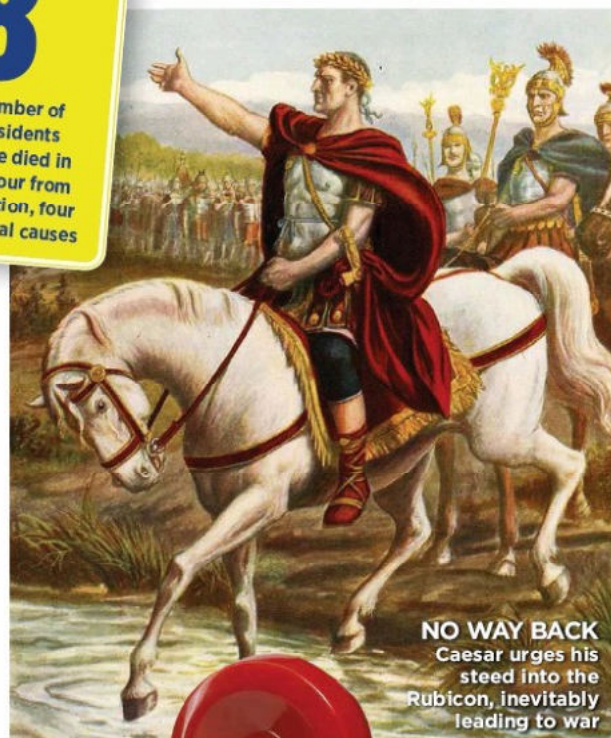
## WHAT AND WHERE IS THE RUBICON?

**🎯** In northeast Italy, a little under 200 miles from Rome, runs the Rubicon, a river shallow enough to be crossed on foot. Yet, thanks to the Ancient Romans, we say to 'cross the Rubicon' is to commit to a course of action, thus passing the point of no return. Is it because the Romans hated getting their feet wet? No.

During the days of the Roman Republic, the river was the boundary between Gaul and Italy, and it was forbidden for a general to march an army across it. That was what Julius Caesar did in January 49 BC. His political foes had ordered he resign as governor of Gaul, but instead Caesar – supposedly with the words “*Alea iacta est*” (The die is cast) – led his 13th Legion across the Rubicon, making civil war inevitable. After years of fighting, he took power, named himself dictator and ushered in the Roman Empire. And it started with getting his (well, his horse’s) feet wet.

# 8

The number of US Presidents who have died in office – four from assassination, four from natural causes



**NO WAY BACK**  
Caesar urges his steed into the Rubicon, inevitably leading to war

## HOW MANY ANIMALS HAVE BEEN AWARDED MEDALS?

**🎯** Quite a few. In 1943, Maria Dickin, founder of the veterinary charity People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) introduced a medal to honour animals that showed exceptional bravery in World War II. The Dickin Medal, a bronze disc bearing the words 'For Gallantry' and 'We Also Serve', has been awarded 69 times, mostly in the 1940s. Recipients of what has been labelled as the animals' Victoria Cross include 33 dogs, 32 messenger pigeons, five horses and a cat.

The first medals went to pigeons: White Vision and Tyke delivered messages “under exceptionally difficult conditions”, while Winkie, released

from a bomber that crashed into the North Sea, flew 120 miles back to Britain to call for aid.

More than a dozen dogs won the Dickin Medal for their deeds in World War II. Alsations Jet and Irma rescued hundreds of people from blitzed buildings; Judy, a pointer, became a PoW and always tried to stop her comrades from being beaten; Gander, a Newfie, saved Canadian infantrymen by picking up a live grenade in his jaws and running towards the enemy, killing himself; and Brian the Alsation actually parachuted into Normandy in 1944. The medal was most recently awarded in January 2018.

## Who made the first 999 call?

**🎯** “Only dial 999 ... if the matter is urgent; if, for instance, the man in the flat next to yours is murdering his wife or you have seen a heavily masked cat burglar peering around the stack pipe of the local bank building.” So read *The Evening News* when the emergency call

service, the world's first, was introduced on 30 June 1937 to cover a 12-mile area in London.

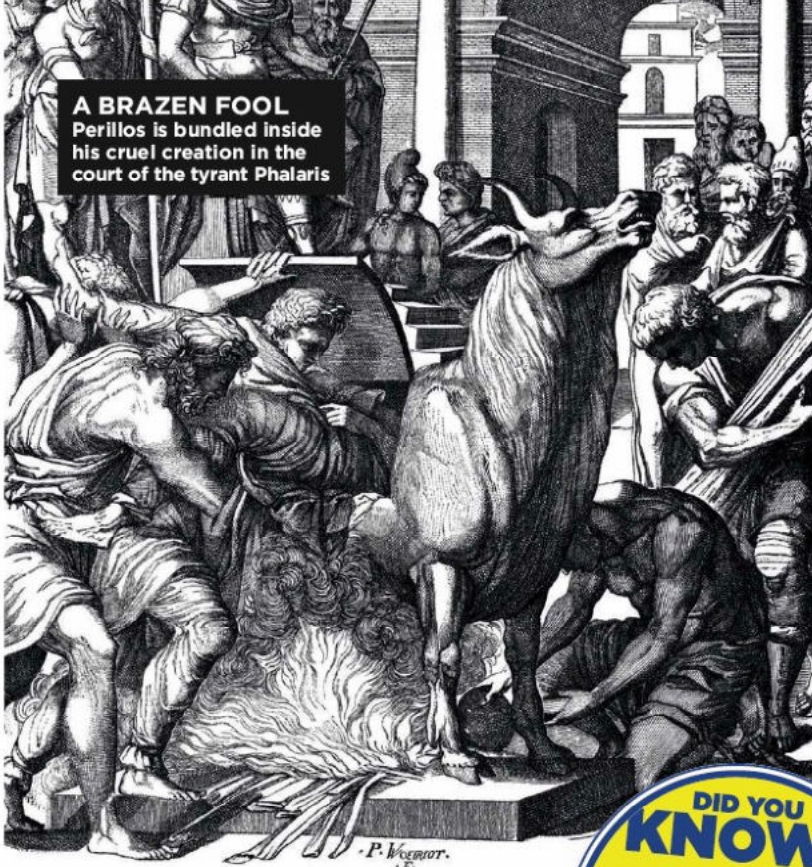
While we can't know for sure who made the first call, the inaugural arrest came a week later after Mrs Beard rang 999 when a man attempted to burgle her

Hampstead home. The culprit, Thomas Duffy, was caught within minutes.

Before 999 was chosen to be the easy-to-remember number, 707 had been considered as this stood for 'SOS', while 111 was dismissed as it would have been too simple to dial on a rotary telephone by mistake.



**A BRAZEN FOOL**  
Perillos is bundled inside  
his cruel creation in the  
court of the tyrant Phalaris



## WHAT WAS THE BRAZEN BULL?

⊙ Ancient Greece: the home of democracy, the Olympics, theatre... and an especially insidious torture device, the brazen bull. Made of bronze, it was shaped like a real bull, but hollow so a victim could be sealed inside. A fire would be set underneath, which heated the metal and slowly roasted the doomed inhabitant alive.

As if that wasn't macabre enough, a setup of pipes and stops in the beast's throat made the dying screams and cries for mercy from within sound like the roaring of an angry bull. The inventor, Perillos of Athens, hoped onlookers watching would enjoy the "tenderest,

most pathetic, most melodious of bellowings".

Perillos presented the bull to the notorious sixth-century-BC tyrant Phalaris of Akragas (in modern-day Sicily). Instead of a reward, though, the creator became the first victim. Phalaris asked for a demonstration of the awful acoustics, only to lock Perillos inside and set a fire going. He was eventually let out, but not as an act of mercy – he was thrown off a cliff. Phalaris got his comeuppance, as he is said to have met his own grisly end inside the guts of the bull.

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### LINE YOUR POCKETS

Malnourished North Vietnamese soldiers were so driven to keep fighting during the Vietnam War that they would put rocks in their pockets so that they would reach the minimum weight during health inspections.

## What makes fries French?

⊙ The name 'French fries' continues to rankle with Belgians, who lay claim to frying thin strips of potato first. As the story goes, poor villagers in the south of the country enjoyed eating thin cuts of fried fish, but in the cold months when the rivers froze over, they tested their method on a new food – the potato, brought to Europe in the 16th century.

At this time, the French feared potatoes to be poisonous. It was only when an army pharmacist named Antoine-Augustin Parmentier successfully introduced them to the court of Louis XVI in the 18th century that the spud joined French cuisine.

Yet that was enough to inspire US President Thomas Jefferson, in 1802, to ask for "potatoes served in the French manner". By the 1850s, American cookbooks were referring to 'French Fried Potatoes', which puts a kibosh on the Belgian theory that the name came from World War I – when American troops saw French-speaking Belgians tuck in to some fries and gave the food the wrong nationality. Still, Belgians today eat more frites than the French.

## Why is it called the Domesday Book?

⊙ William the Conqueror's great survey of England was an unprecedented administrative feat, completed in just six months in 1086. It did not have a formal title, but so thorough were its commissioners and so wide-ranging its scope that the English likened it to the biblical Day of Judgement. Henry II's treasurer Richard Fitzneale later wrote in the 1170s: "For just as no judgement of that final severe and terrible trial can be evaded by any subterfuge, so when any controversy arises in the kingdom concerning the matters in the book ... its word cannot be denied or set aside with impunity."



**NO APPEAL**  
The records of  
the Domesday  
Book were  
considered  
immutable



## Was there really a **pirate code**?

**Q** There was not just one code, as *Pirates of the Caribbean* suggests, but one for each ship, and perhaps even each voyage. A captain would draw up a set of rules, and the punishments for breaking them. Common articles seen across surviving codes state that every member of the crew was entitled to a share in the booty, would receive compensation if they lost a limb, and had a democratic say in decision making. Some rules, however, somewhat belied the image of the fearsome, plundering pirate – such as a ban on gambling and “lights and candles to be put out at eight o’clock”.



**BATTLE HONOUR**  
Golden flies were awarded for acts of valour in Ancient Egypt

## How did Ancient Egyptians keep flies at bay?

**Q** While most Egyptians coped the best they could with shooing away flies in the hotter seasons, a pharaoh – making the most of near-unlimited resources and divine image – could get others to endure the buzzing pests. Pepi II, who ruled during the sixth dynasty (late third millennium BC), purportedly decreed that his rooms should include a slave covered in honey to attract swarms of flies away from him.

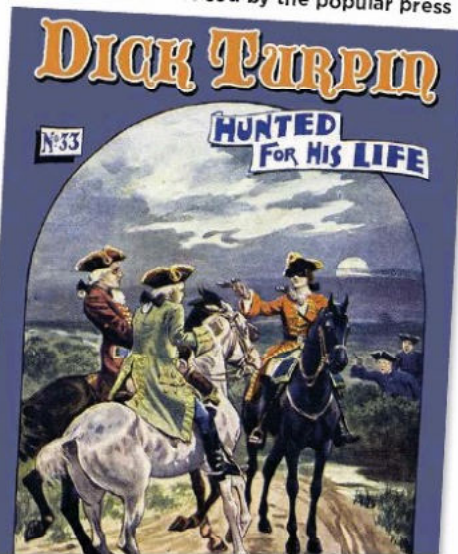
Yet there were some flies that Egyptians didn't want to keep off. The insect came to symbolise persistence and tenacity, so golden flies would be presented to soldiers who had distinguished themselves in battle.

## HOW WAS **DICK TURPIN** CAUGHT?

**Q** Much of the highwayman's life has been lost to myth – he was no dashing hero, he never rode Black Bess from London to York in a single night, and a historian recently claimed he isn't even buried in his grave. Yet you couldn't make up the story of how Dick Turpin was caught.

The murderer and horse thief had been arrested under the alias of John Palmer for shooting a man's rooster. From prison, he wrote to his brother-in-law, but the letter found its way to the man who had taught Turpin how to write. He recognised the handwriting and identified Turpin, who was hanged on 7 April 1739.

**STAND AND DELIVER!**  
The folkloric highwayman's exploits were later romanticised by the popular press



### NOW SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS



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# Dr Saunders strikes back

**Psychiatrist suffers stroke, then analyses symptoms to help others**

Dr Tony Saunders always looked after his health, so it seemed doubly unfair when he collapsed with a major stroke in the gym.

Tony's family were worried that he could die, as stroke takes a life every 13 minutes in the UK. And it's the leading cause of severe adult disability.

Fortunately, with excellent treatment, Tony eventually returned to work.

But Tony noticed that discussing his stroke made him anxious – he even started stuttering.

As a psychiatrist, he identified this as post-traumatic stress disorder. He then realised that, on top of his medical training, he now had valuable first-hand experience of stroke.

So Tony struck back by overcoming his anxiety, and giving talks to medical students. As a result,

a new generation of doctors are supporting their patients with powerful new techniques.

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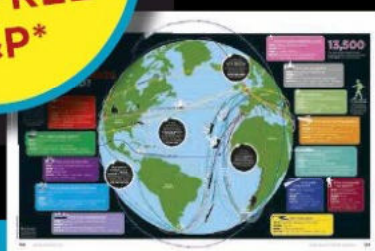
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# ON OUR RADAR

A guide to what's happening in the world of history over the coming weeks



Eden Camp's exhibits are spread through the 33 huts used to hold Axis PoWs during World War II



Re-enactors will be showing off the kit and clothing of the period

## EVENT

### WWII Living History Weekend

17-18 March at Eden Camp Modern History Theme Museum, Malton, North Yorkshire, [www.edencamp.co.uk](http://www.edencamp.co.uk)

In World War II, Eden Camp was a holding facility for Axis prisoners of war; it's now an award-winning attraction. The grounds and restored huts are filled with artefacts, displays and military vehicles, all of which tell the story of the war. Re-enactors from the Northern World War II Association will also be on hand, in the roles of British, American, Russian and German troops.

**"Once a PoW camp, it's now an award-winning attraction"**

## WHAT'S ON

Upcoming events include an exhibition on the US entering WWI.....p83

## SIDE BY SIDE - BRITANNIA!



## BRITAIN'S TREASURES

Brunel's Clifton Suspension Bridge.....p84



GETTY XL EDEN CAMP X2

## BOOK REVIEWS

Our look at the best new releases.....p86



## POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

Your best photos of historical landmarks....p90




MARK TIERNEY XL AMERICAN MUSEUM IN BRITAIN XL









NEW SEASON

# Alnwick Castle

Alnwick, Northumberland, re-opens 29 March,  
[www.alnwickcastle.com](http://www.alnwickcastle.com)

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The doors of picturesque Alnwick Castle – home to the Duke of Northumberland – are open to us Muggles again after the winter break. Since appearing as Hogwarts in the first two *Harry Potter* films, the Norman castle has become a popular attraction for fighting dragons and learning to fly broomsticks, but the magic doesn't end there. Nearly 1,000 years of the castle's history can be explored through guided tours, performances and activities, and there are spectacular sights in the Renaissance-style state rooms and nearby Alnwick Gardens. Plenty to keep you pottering about, in other words.

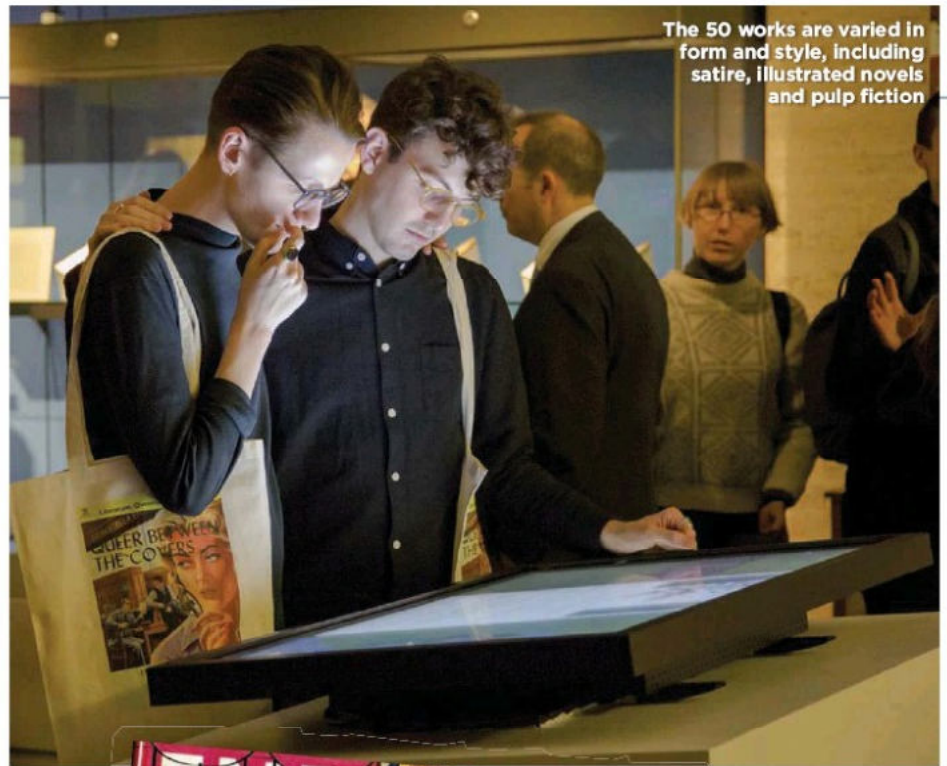


## EXHIBITION

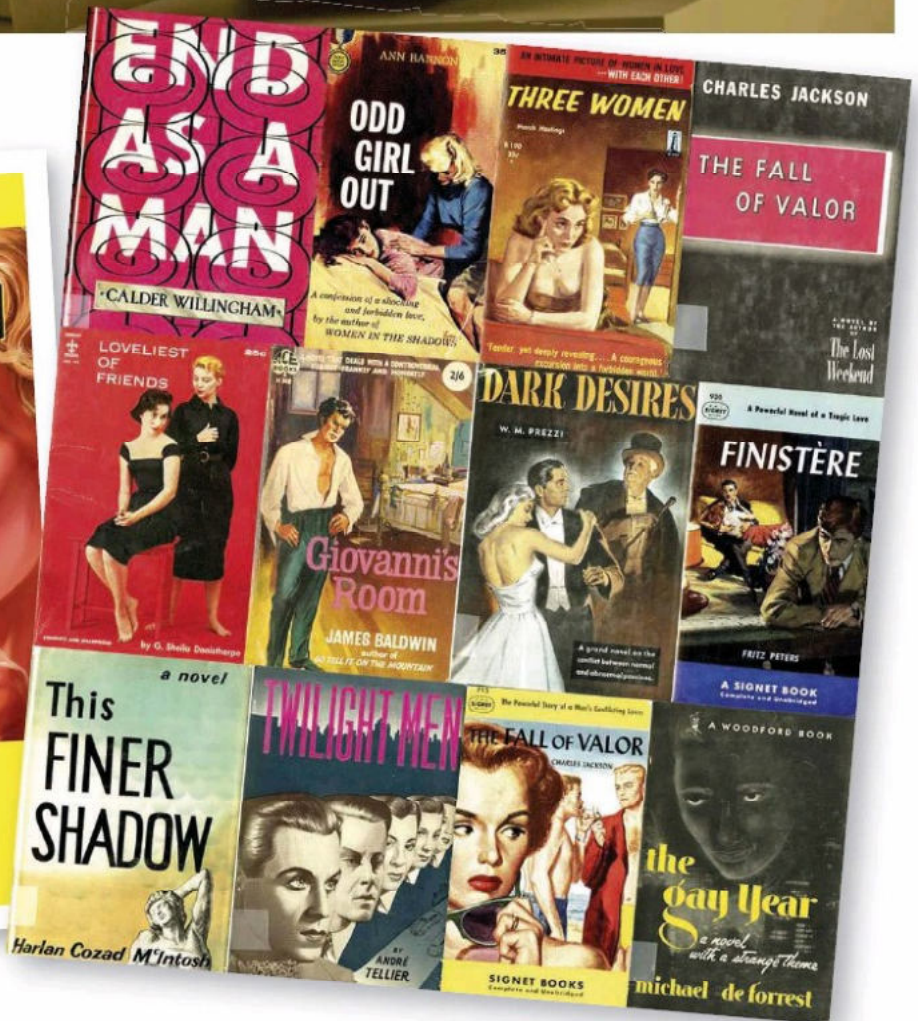
# Queer Between the Covers

Senate House Library, University of London, until 16 June, [www.senatehouselibrary.ac.uk](http://www.senatehouselibrary.ac.uk)

More than 250 years of queer literature and its role in the campaign for LGBT+ equality are celebrated through 50 carefully selected works, among them autographed manuscripts and rare editions from Oscar Wilde, WH Auden and Virginia Woolf. This illuminating exhibition is just the centerpiece for a wider events season that also features screenings of LGBT+ films, and writing workshops. It launches with an evening of poetry and music with Britain's first openly LGBT+ poet laureate, Carol Ann Duffy.



The 50 works are varied in form and style, including satire, illustrated novels and pulp fiction



Amidst the pantheon of LGBT+ literature on display is a signed first edition of the dancer Maud Allan's autobiography. Allan was accused of representing a German WWI plot to send 47,000 gay men and women to Britain to sap moral fibre.



## TALK

### David Olusoga on Civilisations

8 March, 6pm, at the National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh.  
Book tickets at [www.nms.ac.uk](http://www.nms.ac.uk)

David Olusoga joins Mary Beard and Simon Schama to tell the story of human history, culture and art on a global scale in BBC Two's *Civilisations*. Olusoga will talk about the show, and pose the question: can TV still do that magical thing of bringing people to a place where they believe history and art is for them?



Olusoga co-presents *Civilisations*, airing on BBC Two this spring

## TO BUY

### Armillary Sphere

£30, Royal Museums Greenwich,  
<https://shop.rmg.co.uk>

An armillary sphere is an early astronomical device that shows the celestial sphere centred on Earth or the Sun – depending on which model of the Solar System it adheres to. Their highly intricate designs often make these spheres works of art.



The spheres show celestial longitude and latitude



## FILM

### Death of Stalin

Available on DVD, Blu-ray and streaming services

The near-farcical events surrounding the death of Soviet premier Joseph Stalin in 1953 could find no better storyteller than Armando Iannucci (creator of political comedies *The Thick of It* and *Veep*). The ensemble cast – including Steve Buscemi, Michael Palin, Simon Russell Beale, plus a 'hello' to Jason Isaacs – is on stellar form portraying the Soviet elite squabbling for power.



## EXHIBITION

### Side by Side: America and World War I

17 March to 28 October at the American Museum in Britain, Claverton Manor, Bath, <https://americanmuseum.org>

This year marks the 100th anniversary of American soldiers joining the front lines of World War I in large numbers. In this immersive exhibition, we see how the US went from neutrality to war, what life was like back stateside and the relationship its fighting men – including famous names like Ernest Hemingway – had with European allies entering their fourth year of bloody conflict.

Uncle Sam links arms with Britannia, eagle and lion united, in this 1918 propaganda poster



## ▶ ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

- ▶ *Victoria & Abdul: From Book to Screen* – A screening of the film and a Q&A with the author of the book on which it is based at the British Library, 16 March. [www.bl.uk/events](http://www.bl.uk/events)
- ▶ *Ayurvedic Man: Encounters with Indian Medicine* – A stunning exhibition on medical practices ends at Wellcome Collection, London, on 8 April. <https://wellcomecollection.org>



## THE TWO TOWERS

The 26-metre towers are not identical – the arches on the Leigh Woods end are more pointed and, in 2002, it was discovered **not to be solid stone**. Inside are 12 vaulted chambers.



**LOOKING GORGE-OUS**  
Brunel's bridge, now an iconic part of the Bristol skyline, was also the site of the first modern bungee jump, in 1979

## BRITAIN'S TREASURES... CLIFTON SUSPENSION BRIDGE Bristol

The Bristol landmark stands among Isambard Kingdom Brunel's mightiest creations, but the giant of engineering didn't live to see his "first love" reach completion

## GETTING THERE

Postcode: BS8 3PA. There is no car park, but Clifton village has pay-and-display parking. The No. 8 bus from Bristol city centre and Temple Meads train station stops at Clifton too.



## OPENING TIMES AND PRICES

The Visitor Centre is open 10am-5pm throughout the year. Entry is free.

## FIND OUT MORE

Ring 0117 974 4664 or visit [www.cliftonbridge.org.uk](http://www.cliftonbridge.org.uk)

**B**efore he died in 1754, Bristol wine merchant William Vick bequeathed £1,000 (around £140,000 today) in his will for one specific purpose: it should be used to build a stone bridge over the Avon Gorge, linking the village of Clifton with Leigh Woods. It was a grand ambition, yet Vick knew the project would have to wait until the technology of the day matched his vision – until that time, he stipulated that the money should be left to gather interest.

Other crossings of the River Avon were considered, but any bridge had to be high enough

above the water to allow the Royal Navy's tallships to pass underneath on their way to Bristol harbour. So Vick's legacy sat waiting until 1829, when it had grown to £8,000. Though that was still nowhere near enough, a competition was launched to find designs for an "iron suspension bridge", with 100 guineas going to the winner. The enterprise was a farce. The judge, notable engineer Thomas Telford, rejected all the entries and put forward his own in their place, only to be dismissed too.

A second competition had to be run before a winner could be

chosen, and that winner was Isambard Kingdom Brunel, who had submitted four designs. Then just 24 years old, he had already shown his gifts and a tenacity to succeed – he'd worked as assistant engineer on the Thames Tunnel in previous years.

Brunel originally intended his bridge to be elaborately decorated, with the two towers featuring sculpted iron panels and sphinxes on top. Though these artistic flourishes had to be abandoned, the calculations Brunel made were near flawless. On 21 June 1831, at the ceremony for the





## WHAT TO LOOK FOR...



### 1 VISITOR CENTRE

Found on the Leigh Woods end, the centre has exhibitions on the bridge's construction and maintenance, a number of children's activities and a shop.



### 2 ILLUMINATIONS

Magnesium flares lit up the 1864 opening – although the wind kept blowing them out. Today, 3,072 bulbs illuminate the bridge every evening.



### 3 CHAINS

When the Hungerford suspension bridge in London – another Brunel creation – was demolished in 1860, its chains were brought west and reused on the Bristol bridge.



### 4 OBSERVATORY HILL

For perhaps the best view of the bridge, climb the footpath towards Clifton Observatory. While you're there, don't forget to explore the camera obscura and Giant's Cave.



### 5 FREE TOURS

At weekends from Easter to October (plus bank holidays), free tours are offered with one of the very knowledgeable volunteer guides.



### 6 INSCRIPTION

The Latin words "*Suspensæ vix via fit*" are engraved on the Leigh Woods tower. This translates as "A suspended way made with difficulty", which is putting it mildly.

## "It was argued the bridge be completed as a memorial"

laying of the foundation stone on the Clifton side, the bridge was pre-emptively declared by one of its investors as "the ornament of Bristol and the wonder of the age".

### DOWNWARD SPIRAL

The optimism didn't last long. Construction came to spluttering halt just a few months later when riots (during which Brunel acted as a special constable) destroyed confidence in Bristol businesses. Work only got going again in 1836, which gave Brunel plenty of time to fear that the bridge – "my first love, my darling", as he described it – would never get built. And so it seemed destined to be. In 1843, funds ran out and work had to be utterly abandoned.

In fact, if not for Brunel's death, his creation may never have been finished. Construction finally resumed in 1862 after the Institution of Civil Engineers argued that the bridge should be completed as a memorial to their colleague. Under the supervision (and revised designs) of Sir John Hawkshaw and William Henry Barlow, work concluded in 1864, some 33 years after the first stones were laid and 110 years after Vick's donation.

Around 150,000 people turned out for the bridge's grand opening on 8 December, which included a procession, military display and a lively carnival atmosphere. More importantly, Mary Griffiths bagged the title of being the first member of the

public to cross it after she hiked up her skirts and raced a young man from one end of the 214-metre span to the other.

From that inaugural crossing, the 1,500-ton bridge has remained in use, despite the horse-drawn carts giving way to motorised vehicles. Today, some four million drivers every year pay the £1 toll.

The best way to experience the bridge, though, is on foot – that way it's free, and you can stop at any point to admire the view, from 76 metres above the river. Then be sure to head to the visitor centre (also free) and discover more about how Brunel's suspended masterpiece became a symbol for the city of Bristol. 📍

## WHY NOT VISIT...

*Make the most of your Bristol visit...*

### SS GREAT BRITAIN

Another Brunel icon, this 98-metre iron steamship (the largest vessel when launched in 1843) now sits in Bristol's Great Western Dockyard as a floating museum. [www.ssgreatbritain.org](http://www.ssgreatbritain.org)

### THE MATTHEW

A short walk from the SS Great Britain is a modern reconstruction of the *Matthew*, the ship used by explorer John Cabot to sail from Bristol to Newfoundland in 1497. <https://matthew.co.uk>

### THE NEW ROOM

Built by John Wesley in 1739, the New Room – believed to be the oldest Methodist chapel in the world – offers a tranquil space in the city centre. *Poldark* fans may recognise it from series two. [www.newroombristol.org.uk](http://www.newroombristol.org.uk)



## BOOKS

This month's best historical reads



# Mixing It

*Diversity in World War Two Britain*

WENDY WEBSTER

## Mixing It: Diversity in World War Two Britain

By Wendy Webster

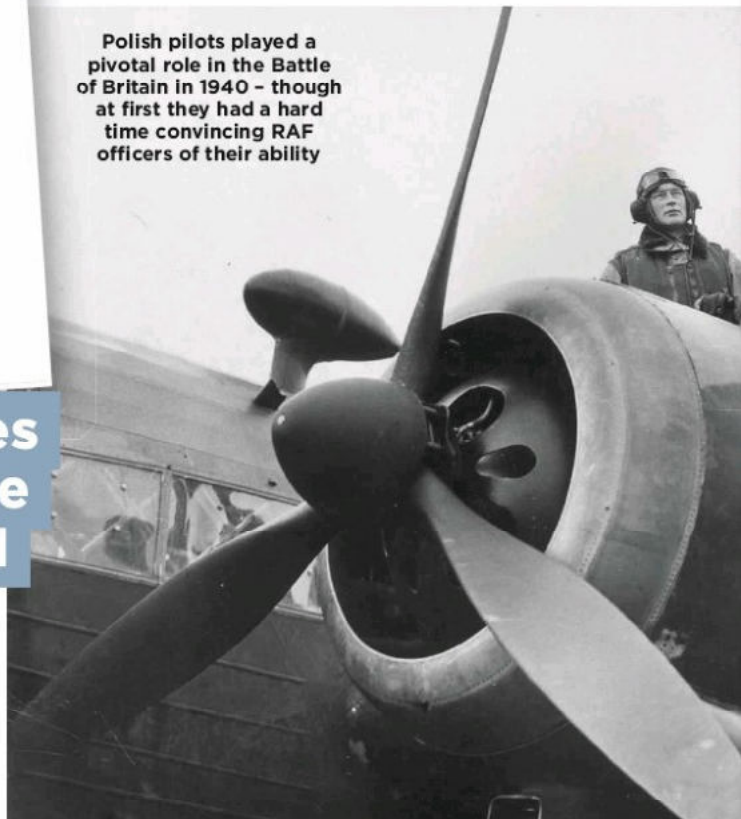
Oxford University Press, £25,  
hardback, 336 pages

Amid the trauma of the conflict on the continent, it's easy to overlook the ways in which World War II also massively reshaped society and culture in Britain. As the demands of the war grew, people arrived from Europe, the United States and around the British Empire for a diverse range of reasons. Some came to work, and some to fight; others still came because they were refugees or exiles. This fascinating new history of the period tells the forgotten stories of some of these individuals and puts them in their wider context, exploring the triumphs and tensions of a population that was more diverse than it had ever been before.

BOOK  
OF THE  
MONTH



Polish pilots played a pivotal role in the Battle of Britain in 1940 – though at first they had a hard time convincing RAF officers of their ability



**“Many graves and cemeteries in Britain bear witness to the presence of a multinational community in wartime. When the war was over this community was largely forgotten”**





African-Americans cooking up a storm while posted in Northern Ireland



## MEET THE AUTHOR

Britain learned how to be multicultural in World War II, but promptly forgot some of those lessons when peace returned. **Wendy Webster** is on a mission to help us remember

### What inspired you to write this book?

It took a while to dawn on me that people came to Britain from all over the world during World War II. The presence of Americans is well known, but less familiar is the bigger picture of large-scale wartime movements to Britain. Once I got started on that powerful story, I found it irresistible.

### What were some of the major reasons that Britain became more diverse during World War II?

People came to Britain chiefly from Europe, the British Empire and America. They came for many different reasons: as refugees and exiles, servicemen and servicewomen, war workers, nurses and prisoners of war. Movements to Britain were on an unprecedented scale.

### Are there any stories of particular individuals you'd like to highlight?

There are many compelling stories. I begin the book with Porokuru Pohe from New Zealand, the first Maori pilot to serve in the RAF. His initial application to join the Royal New Zealand Air Force asked him whether he was of "pure European descent", and he answered "no". So the rule that only people of pure European descent could enlist in the RAF is part of his story. That rule was subsequently lifted.

Porokuru's RAF nickname was Johnny. He became known as Lucky Johnny after he completed more and more successful missions, many of them from Dishforth in Yorkshire. But his luck ran out in 1943, when his aircraft was hit by flak and caught fire, forcing him to ditch it in the English Channel. He was captured and sent to the prisoner of war camp Stalag Luft III, where he participated in what was later called the 'Great Escape'. He was one

of 50 escapees subsequently murdered by the Gestapo after being recaptured.

### What happened to diversity in Britain when the war came to an end?

Large numbers of people who had served in the military were demobbed back home, while many refugees and exiles returned to countries no longer under German occupation. Even so, the population in Britain in the aftermath of the war continued to be more diverse than it had before.

Many post-war arrivals were generated by government schemes that addressed the acute labour shortage through recruiting workers, mainly from Europe; and not all departures were permanent. People returned for many reasons, including employment and attachments made in wartime. Others stayed on under government schemes, including Poles, and Italian and German prisoners of war. But many of those who stayed on or returned to Britain remember a change of climate – one that was more hostile and in which their wartime contributions were forgotten.

### How would you like your book to change our view of Britain in World War II?

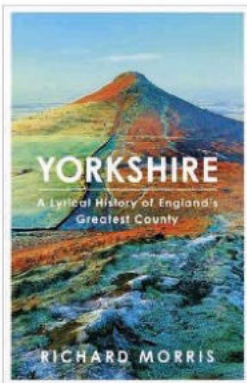
During the war, the British media constantly celebrated Britain's allies,

and there was a lot of coverage of different national groups in Britain and their contributions to the war effort. But the vision of a multinational community of allies in Britain faded rapidly when the war was over, and has played little part in Britain's public memories of it. I wanted to recover this largely forgotten history, and to offer a new way of seeing Britain at war by telling the story of its multi-ethnic and multinational wartime population for the first time.



**"Many of those who stayed on or returned remember a change of climate, one that was more hostile"**



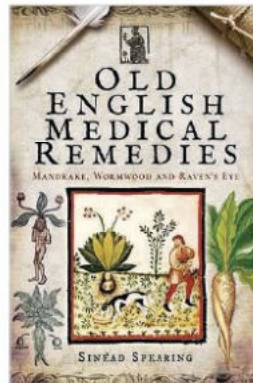


## Yorkshire: A Lyrical History of England's Greatest County

By Richard Morris

Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £25, hardback, 304 pages

Archaeologist Richard Morris embarks on a tour of the UK's largest historic county, employing history, genealogy and travelogue to produce an account that's both personal and sweeping. It's a distinctive blend, which by its end yields a very real sense of the place and its people – from fens and farms to markets and mines.



## Old English Medical Remedies: Mandrake, Wormwood and Raven's Eye

By Sinéad Spearing

Pen and Sword, £19.99, hardback, 152 pages

It's cold and damp outside, and you've got a lingering cold that nothing will shift. Perhaps the cure is lurking in Sinéad Spearing's book? It outlines the ancient remedies to which our forebears turned, together with the forces and spirits they believed shaped ill and good health. You're unlikely to be instructed to ingest sheep's dung on the NHS...

DAVID ADDRESS

## CULTURAL DEMENTIA

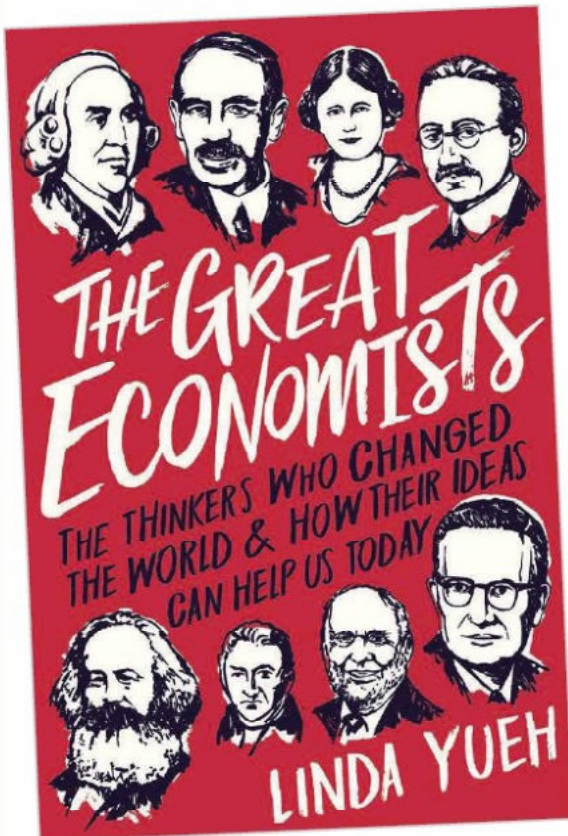
How the West has Lost its History, and Risks Losing Everything Else

## Cultural Dementia: How the West Has Lost its History, and Risks Losing Everything Else

By David Address

Head of Zeus, £14.99, hardback, 128 pages

A bracing intellectual workout. From its provocative title on, it argues that western nations have sacrificed historical accuracy for a desire to turn back the clock to an era that never existed. Even if you don't agree with all its arguments, it remains a stimulating look at the way in which history shapes events in 2018.



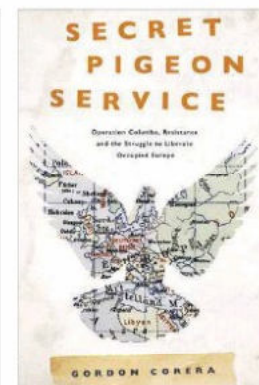
## The Great Economists: The Thinkers Who Changed the World and How Their Ideas Can Help Us Today

By Linda Yueh

Viking, £20, hardback, 368 pages

'A history of economic thought' might not be a phrase that necessarily makes your heart sing, but this well-written overview lays out in accessible terms why it matters – and why we should care. In adopting a biographical, episodic structure, it also emphasises the pioneering individuals who forever reshaped their fields, including Adam Smith and Karl Marx.

**"It lays out in accessible terms why we should care"**



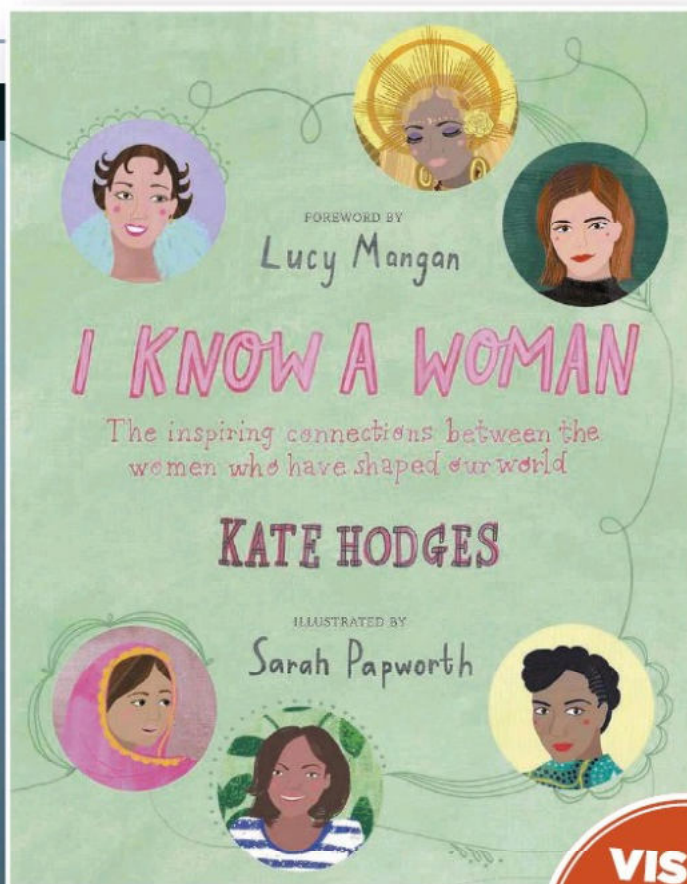
## Secret Pigeon Service: Operation Columba, Resistance and the Struggle to Liberate Europe

By Gordon Corera

William Collins, £20, hardback, 336 pages

In the dark days of World War II, when people across Europe were living under Nazi occupation, the Allies devised a plan to obtain information about their situation: pigeons. Between 1941 and 1944 thousands of homing pigeons brought back valuable intel – it's an extraordinary story.





## I Know a Woman: The Inspiring Connections Between the Women Who Have Shaped Our World

By Kate Hodges  
Aurum Press, £20, hardback, 192 pages

This illustrated collection of biographies tells the stories of influential women throughout history, and also – neatly – charts the diverse ways in which they influenced each other. From the 19th century to the present day, there are both celebrated and lesser-known figures here, from Ada Lovelace and Queen Victoria to Gertrude Stein and Coco Chanel. It's a beautiful, uplifting ode to female success and solidarity.

**"It's a beautiful, uplifting ode to female success and solidarity"**

**VISUAL BOOK OF THE MONTH**



Hodges' lovingly illustrated who's who is akin to a six degrees of separation for female pioneers, tracing the links between the likes of Nina Simone, Marie Curie and Eleanor Roosevelt





# POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

Send your historical landmark photos to [photos@historyrevealed.com](mailto:photos@historyrevealed.com)  
– and follow us on Instagram [@historyrevmag](https://www.instagram.com/historyrevmag)

## STONEHENGE, WILTSHIRE

“ I went to Stonehenge to make one of my childhood dreams come true. I specially crossed the inner circle to feel and sense the place. It was the first day of December, and the morning had come with frost, but being in that magical place made me forget about my frozen feet. I took this photo as the sun rose. ”

Taken by: Mara Papeo [@the.om.wind](https://www.instagram.com/the.om.wind)







## ROCHE ABBEY, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

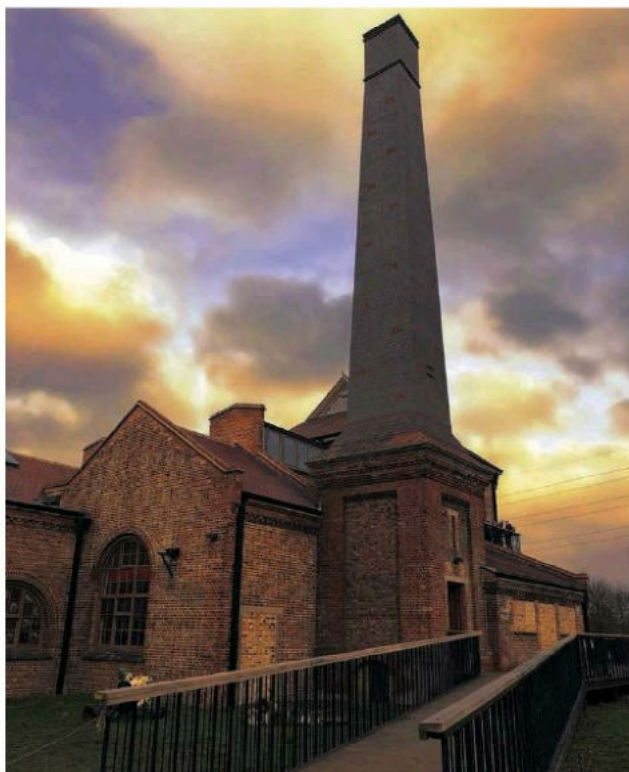
“ Roche Abbey is only three miles from where I live. I have been visiting this beauty spot for years, but until now I had never photographed the abbey after it had snowed. Luckily, on this day, the conditions were perfect and I had some beautiful light. ”

Taken by: Mark Tierney [@tierneypphoto](#)

## WALTHAMSTOW WETLANDS, LONDON

“ I’ve always admired this old pumphouse building, but I wasn’t able to access it – until the opening of Walthamstow Wetlands last October. The dramatic winter skies above really help to bring the quality of the architecture to life. ”

Taken by: Tom Herron [@tomherron](#)



### FEELING INSPIRED?

Send your snaps to us and we'll feature a selection every issue.  
[photos@historyrevealed.com](mailto:photos@historyrevealed.com)



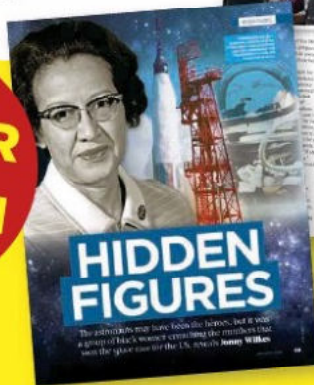
# READERS' LETTERS

Get in touch – share your opinions on history and our magazine

## FROM HIDDEN TO HEROES

I enjoyed reading Hidden Figures by Jonny Wilkes (January 2018). Sad story of how Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson, among others, were written out of history and not given proper credit for their achievements, until recently, because of the colour of their skin and their standing in society. These women played

**LETTER OF THE MONTH**



her seat on a bus in segregated Montgomery nine months before Rosa Parks. But as she was pregnant at 15, her case was not used as

**“Is now the time to give more people from this time their rightful place in history?”**

such an important part in one of humankind's most amazing achievements, yet you will not see them in any official footage. Is now the time that we start to give more people from this time their rightful place in history?

For example, Claudette Colvin, who refused to give up

publicity for the legal battle following Parks' refusal, therefore denying her rightful place in history.

Or there is Bayard Rustin, a civil rights activist and one of the chief organisers of the 1963 March on Washington (famous for Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream" speech). His heroic

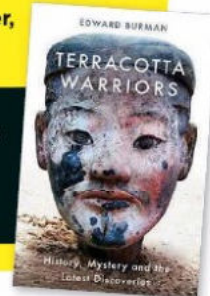
work was kept out of the public eye, however, because he was a gay black man and it was feared his lifestyle would be used against the movement.

Eleven days after the deaths of four students at Kent State University in 1970, during an anti-Vietnam protest, Phillip Lafayette Gibbs (aged 21) and James Earl Green (17) were shot and killed by police during a similar protest at the

predominantly black Jackson State College. As the media didn't report in such depth on the deaths of black protesters, the young men's sacrifice has been largely forgotten. I would love to see articles about these people, and many more, so that we finally give them recognition.

Stephen Baker,  
via email

**Stephen wins a copy of *Terracotta Warriors: History, Mystery and the Latest Discoveries* by Edward Burman (2018). They are a marvel of the ancient world and an ongoing subject of modern science. With unique access, Burman gives an fascinating glimpse into the most recent excavations of the terracotta warriors.**



**f** Pat Kinsella's article Sender's List (February 2018) was really powerful. I cannot stop thinking about it and I am sorry that I had never even heard of Irena Sendler before. Thank you so much. Elaine Robinson

## HER-STORY REVEALED

Thank you for putting together such an amazing magazine every month – I never miss an issue. I just wanted to write to commend you on your recent efforts to include many of history's great women. Every month, I come across articles about women, some who were known to me and many of

them new stories I had not been familiar with!

There are endless numbers of heroic or important men who have contributed to history, but women were not always at an advantage to do the same, or at least get the recognition they deserve. So thank you for telling the stories of many women and for introducing me to some I had never read about before. Keep up the great work! Shell Dooley, Dublin, Ireland

## HIGHEST OF PRAISE

The title of your magazine is right on point! I have learned



**“These women could not sit at the front of the bus, but they could help send rockets into space”**

## DESERVING RECOGNITION

As well as the extraordinary mathematicians at NASA, Stephen would like other black figures to take their place in the history books



## HISTORY'S WONDER WOMEN

Thanks to Shell for her letter – there are so many more fantastic stories about women to tell, so stay tuned!



**f** I always buy *History Revealed* but, living in Australia, I am a few months behind. I have finished reading the November 2017 issue and now waiting for the December issue. At least I get to see what will be coming in the following issues. Keep up the good work because I love reading anything that is about history. Thank you.  
Rosslyn Roberts

so much from this incredible magazine that I cannot begin to explain. I was always very interested in history, mainly to do with America, but your magazine has widened my horizons – now, I'm interested in all history.

*History Revealed* has to be the best magazine I have ever read! Such excellence! So many amazing articles! Thank you so much for this amazing magazine. I have learned so much and can connect history to this day and time. BEST HISTORY magazine ever!  
**Wesley Mason,**  
Middletown, New York

## DON'T TEAR THE TAPESTRY

With a copy of the Bayeux Tapestry residing in pride of place at Reading Museum, it seems crazy that the French President, Emmanuel Macron, is risking the safety of an irreplaceable treasure by transporting it hundreds of miles to our shores. Though it would be nice to see the original – especially as its museum is overpriced and flushed with tourists – it is still possible to damage or tear the ancient material, no matter the care and attention taken. If people are to see and appreciate the original in another 900 years, then the fewer risks taken the better.

**Matthew Wilson,**  
Wolverhampton

## THE LAW OF THE ROMAN LAND

Paul Romanowski's letter about Boudicca (Letter of the Month, February 2018) was well constructed and made quite a few good



## BOUDICCA'S BEEF

Duncan points out that Boudicca's rebellion came from a broken agreement – other leaders worked better with the Romans

points. However, if we are to understand what made Boudicca tick, then the first thing to consider is that she went to war on the basis of broken trust and a broken contract which her husband, King Prasutagus, made with the Romans. As archaeologists and historians – Barry Cunliffe, Graham Webster, Simon Schama, Dan Snow, etc – have made clear, Roman society was not only a male society, but one based on law.

Norfolk's Iceni tribe had not understood that with the death of Prasutagus, the Romans could annex the land or renegotiate the contract. With another client kingdom, the land of the Brigantes under Queen Cartimandua, the Roman laws played a fair game – knowing that a rising there would be more serious than in Norfolk. As the history books record, of course, Boudicca did some real damage with her rebellion.

It wasn't strictly about heroes and villains but more about a game where it depended on who held the balance of power. Cartimandua, despite quarrels with her husband and lover, was a client queen and knew how to play the battle of the sexes with Nero's governor generals to her own advantage.

**Duncan McVee,**  
via email

## ARE YOU A WINNER?

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 51 are:

**Barrie Vinten,** Rugby  
**G David,** Salford  
**G Derbyshire,** Clitheroe

Congratulations! You've each won a copy of **Season 1 of *Medici: Masters of Florence* on DVD**, RRP £24.99. It stars Richard Madden and Dustin Hoffman, and has all the politics, scandal, sex and murder you'd expect from the Medici family.

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Bringing the past to life

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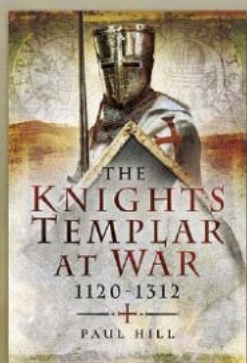
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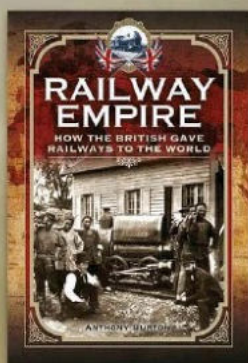
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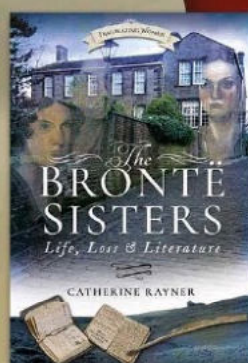
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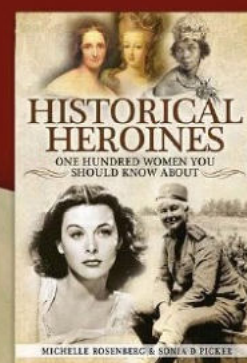
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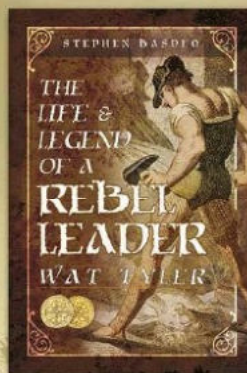
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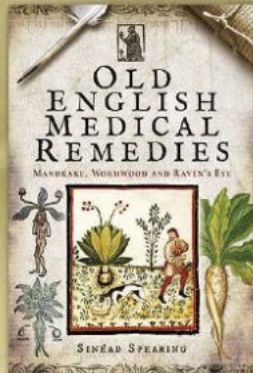
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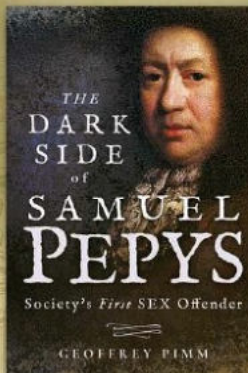
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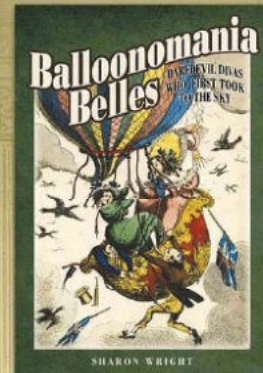
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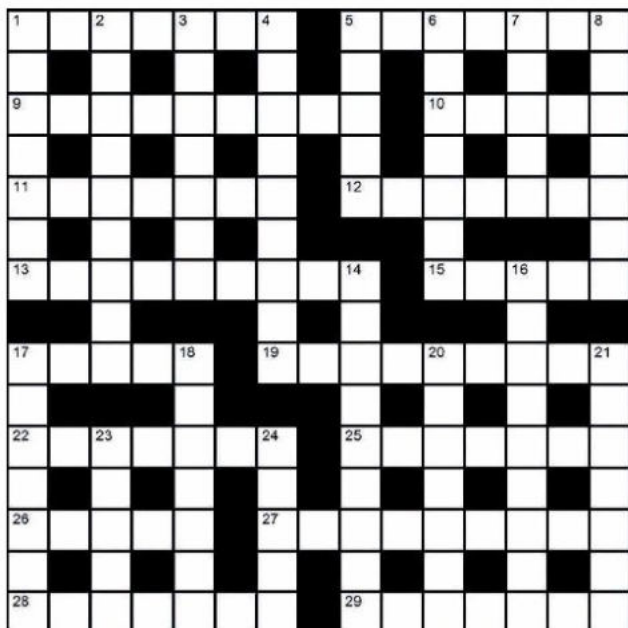
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## CROSSWORD N° 53

Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle – and you could win a fantastic new book

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## ACROSS

- 1 Robert \_\_\_\_ (d.1605), leader of the Gunpowder Plot (7)  
 5 In Greek myth, the eldest of the Three Fates (7)  
 9 Louisa May Alcott novel, written in 1871 (6,3)  
 10 'Little Orphan' girl created in 1924 by American cartoonist Harold Gray (5)  
 11 Shipping hazard, the undoing of RMS *Titanic* on its 1912 maiden voyage (7)  
 12 Jack \_\_\_\_ (1931–82), US astronaut portrayed by Kevin Bacon in the film *Apollo 13* (7)  
 13 Leader of a slave revolt against the Roman Empire (9)  
 15 David Ivon \_\_\_\_ (b.1957), England cricket captain during the 1980s (5)

- 17 Florence-born author of *The Divine Comedy* (5)  
 19 1934 historical novel by Robert Graves (1,8)  
 22 Sherman, MacArthur or Patton, for example (7)  
 25 \_\_\_\_ Revolution, 1932 coup in what is now Thailand (7)  
 26 Byname of Eva Perón (1919–1952) (5)  
 27 Manchester district, home to a major city workhouse built in 1855 (9)  
 28 US west-coast city founded in 1851 by the Denny Party (7)  
 29 Parish in east Birmingham, where Blakesley Hall (built 1590) stands (7)

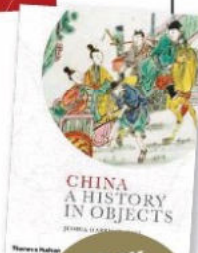
## DOWN

- 1 Anders \_\_\_\_ (1701–44), Swedish scientist who invented a temperature scale (7)  
 2 Medieval building used to store farmers' payments made to the Church (5,4)  
 3 A 'bulge' in a battle line, such as that at Ypres during World War I (7)  
 4 Japanese city on the island of Honshu, famous for its five-storey pagoda (9)  
 5 *The Eve Of St \_\_\_\_*, 1819 poem by English Romantic John Keats (5)  
 6 Town in Berkshire, site of a 1688 battle (7)  
 7 Mike \_\_\_\_ (b.1959), Republican governor of Indiana from 2013 to 2017 (5)  
 8 The legendary loud-voiced herald of the Greek army in the Trojan War (7)  
 14 Marquess of \_\_\_\_, title held by Robert Gascoyne-Cecil (1830–1903), who served as Prime Minister three times (9)  
 16 Historic Westminster thoroughfare, associated with the civil service (9)  
 17 Followers of 17th-century radical Gerrard Winstanley (7)  
 18 Amelia \_\_\_\_ (b.1897), US aviator who disappeared in 1937 (7)  
 20 City in India, former capital of the Mewar kingdom (7)  
 21 Mary \_\_\_\_ (1797–1851), author of *Frankenstein* (7)  
 23 Currency of Nigeria, introduced in 1973 (5)  
 24 John \_\_\_\_ (1632–1704), English philosopher and 'Father of Liberalism' (5)

## CHANCE TO WIN

## China: a History in Objects

by Jessica Harrison Hall  
 A visually rich and detailed introduction to the history of China – no small feat, but Harrison Hall, in collaboration with the British Museum, has made it accessible and beautifully illustrated.  
 Published by Thames & Hudson, £29.95.



BOOK WORTH £29.95 FOR THREE WINNERS

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## SOLUTION N° 51



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The winning entrants will be the first correct entries drawn at random after the closing time. The prize and number of winners will be as shown on the Crossword page. There is no cash alternative and the prize will not be transferable. Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited's decision is final and no correspondence relating to the competition will be entered into. The winners will be notified by post within 28 days of the close of the competition. The name and county of residence of the winners will be published in the magazine within two months of the

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Sarah Plater



"I enrolled in The Writers Bureau's Creative Writing course in the hope of **building my confidence as a writer** and ending my cycle of publishing failures. I **currently work as a content writer** with a writing agency and have even won an international writing competition."

Walter Dirnjos



"I won the 2015 Flirty Fiction Prima Magazine and Mills and Boon competition. The prize was **£500**, a three page feature in the magazine and the chance to work with Mills and Boon on my book. Also I have three stories in three anthologies with other authors – **we've raised almost £2,000 for cancer charities**"

Rachel Dove



"I have been published in different papers and magazines and am now producing around **250 articles a year**. It's going a bit too well at times! Seriously, it's very satisfying, stimulating and great fun – and thanks again to the WB for launching me on a **second career**. I meet so many interesting people and count myself mighty lucky."

Martin Read



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